DANGANRONPA

A SCHOOL OF HOPE . . . WITH STUDENTS OF DESPAIR!

THE ANIMATION

4

created by
SPIKE CHUNSOFT

manga by
TAKASHI TSUKIMI

OKAY, I WANT Y'ALL TO CLOSE YOUR EYES AN' THINK.
PIC-TURE A WORLD WHERE EVERY DAY IS FILLED WITH PEACE AN' JOY.
AN' PICTURE A WORLD WHERE NOTHIN' STRANGE EVER EXISTS. AN' NOTHIN' STRANGE EVER HAPPENS ...
...YA UNDER-STAND, DON'T YA? NOW *THAT'S* WHAT I WOULD CALL A TRULY WEIRD WORLD.

#13 [ABNORMAL ARC: 100 MILE DASH; DISHEARTENING JUNK FOOD FOR THE RACE THROUGH YOUTH (DEADLY LIFE) 1]
HIGH SCHOOL
DANGANRONPA
A SCHOOL OF HOPE . . . WITH STUDENTS OF DESPAIR!
THE ANIMATION
CREATED BY SPIKE CHUNSOFT
MANGA BY TAKASHI TSUKIMI
TRANSLATION BY JACKIE MCCLURE
LETTERING AND TOUCHUP BY JOHN CLARK
EDITED BY CARL GUSTAV HORN
SPECIAL THANKS TO CLARINE HARP, GIA MANRY, AND SUSIE NIXON AT FUNIMATION
DARK HORSE MANGA

roarrrrrr
Kirigiri...?
Ki...

GET MOVING! EXTINGUISH THAT FIRE POST-HASTE!!
THE GARDEN BUCKETS!
VERY GOOD! NOW DOUSE THOSE FLAMES!
YOU COULD LEND A HAND...!
バシャアア
sPLashhhh
シュウウウ
hissSSSSS

ウsssshhhh

ウssssウウshhhhh

THE MASTER-MIND IS ALSO A DISTINCT POSSI-BILITY.

K-KYO-KO KIRI-GIRI ...

WH-WHO IS THAT ...?

ULP ...!

AH, I SUPPOSE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH TO ASK THAT YOU HAD ALSO DIED.

FUKAWA!

ffwwshhhh

カサッ

...GOD-DAMMIT! WHAT'S GOING ON...?

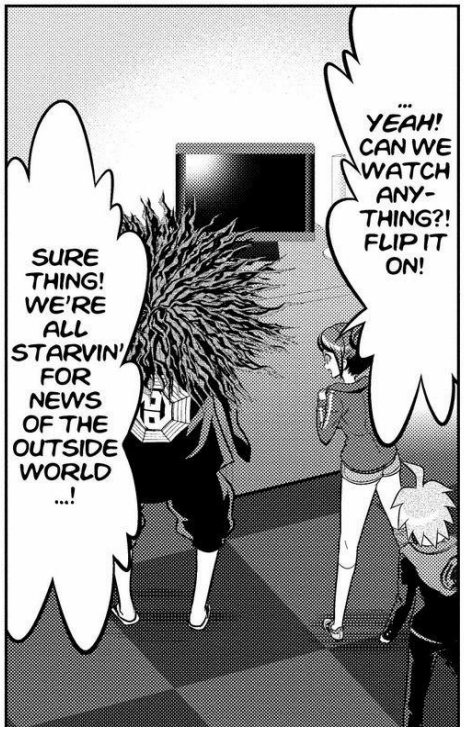
IF THE LATTER, IT WOULD CERTAINLY EXPLAIN WHY MONOKUMA MALFUNC-TIONED...

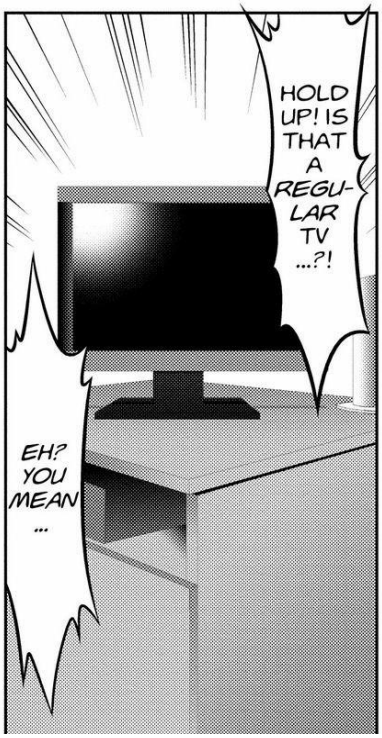
...BUT WHY MAKE THE CORPSE EXPLODE? TO DISPOSE OF A PIECE OF EVI-DENCE ?

A KEY...
...IT MUST HAVE BEEN ON THE CORPSE.
... HMM. LOOK.
HUH?
COME ON, LET'S GO.
dash
EH? BUT...
RE-MEMBER THE OTHER LOCKED DOOR ...?
カチャッ
Ka-chink
チャ... chak
SWEET!
DATA CENTER
K-KIRIGIRI AND I COULDN'T GET IN HERE BEFORE ...
WELL, NOW WE WILL...

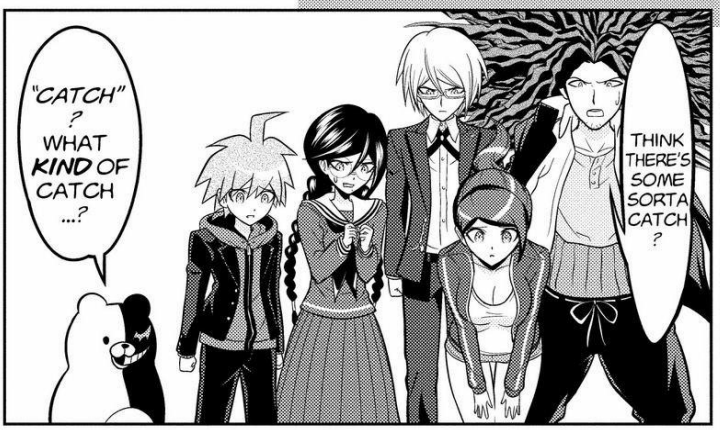
W-WE'RE IN THE MAS-TER-MIND'S ROOM!
THIS IS WHERE WE'RE SPIED UPON FROM...!
THE FEEDS FROM THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS...!

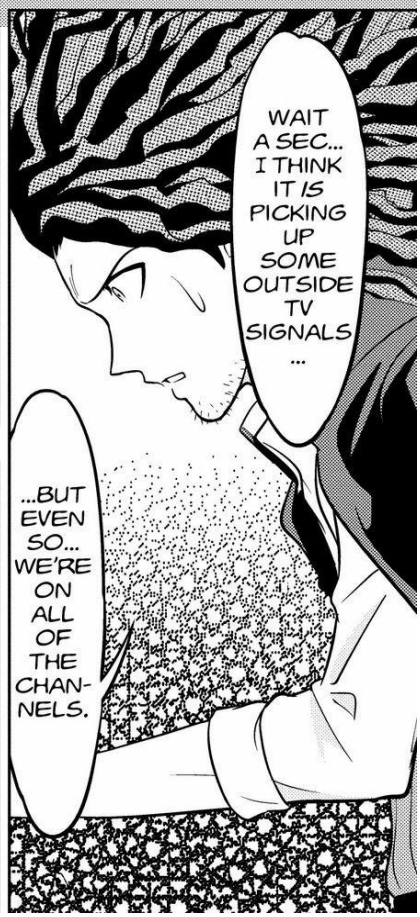
POW-ER... ON !!!

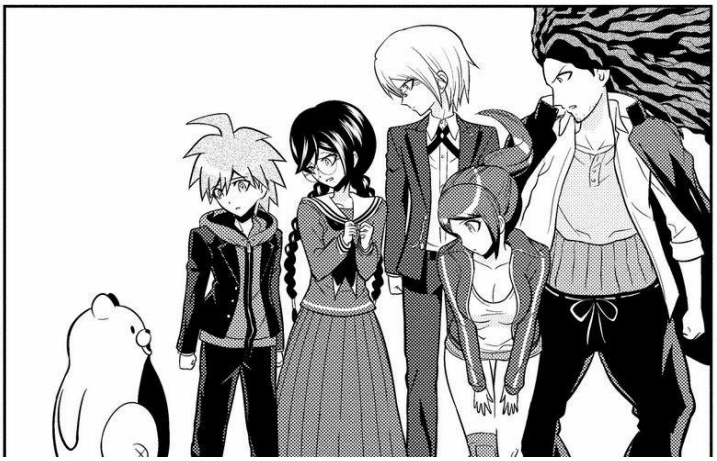

SURE THING! WE'RE ALL STARVIN' FOR NEWS OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD ...!
...YEAH! CAN WE WATCH ANY-THING?! FLIP IT ON!


HOLD UP! IS THAT A REGU-LAR TV ...?!
EH? YOU MEAN ...

...OH.
CRAP! I-IT'S JUST US...
YEAH... LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST THE FEED FROM THE CAMERA IN HERE.
blink


"CATCH"? WHAT KIND OF CATCH...?
THINK THERE'S SOME SORTA CATCH?

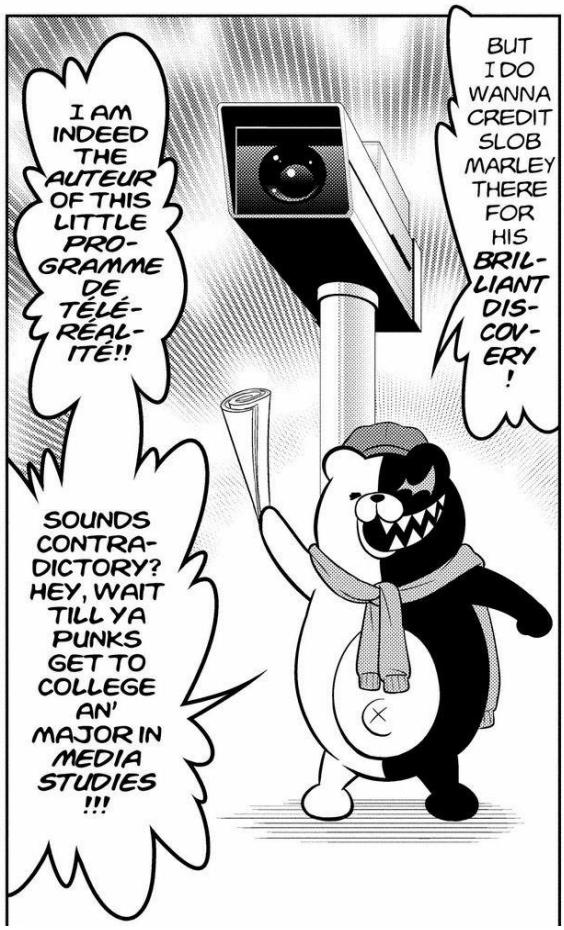

WAIT A SEC... I THINK IT IS PICKING UP SOME OUTSIDE TV SIGNALS...
...BUT EVEN SO... WE'RE ON ALL OF THE CHAN-NELS.



HI.
HAW HAW HAW HAW !!!

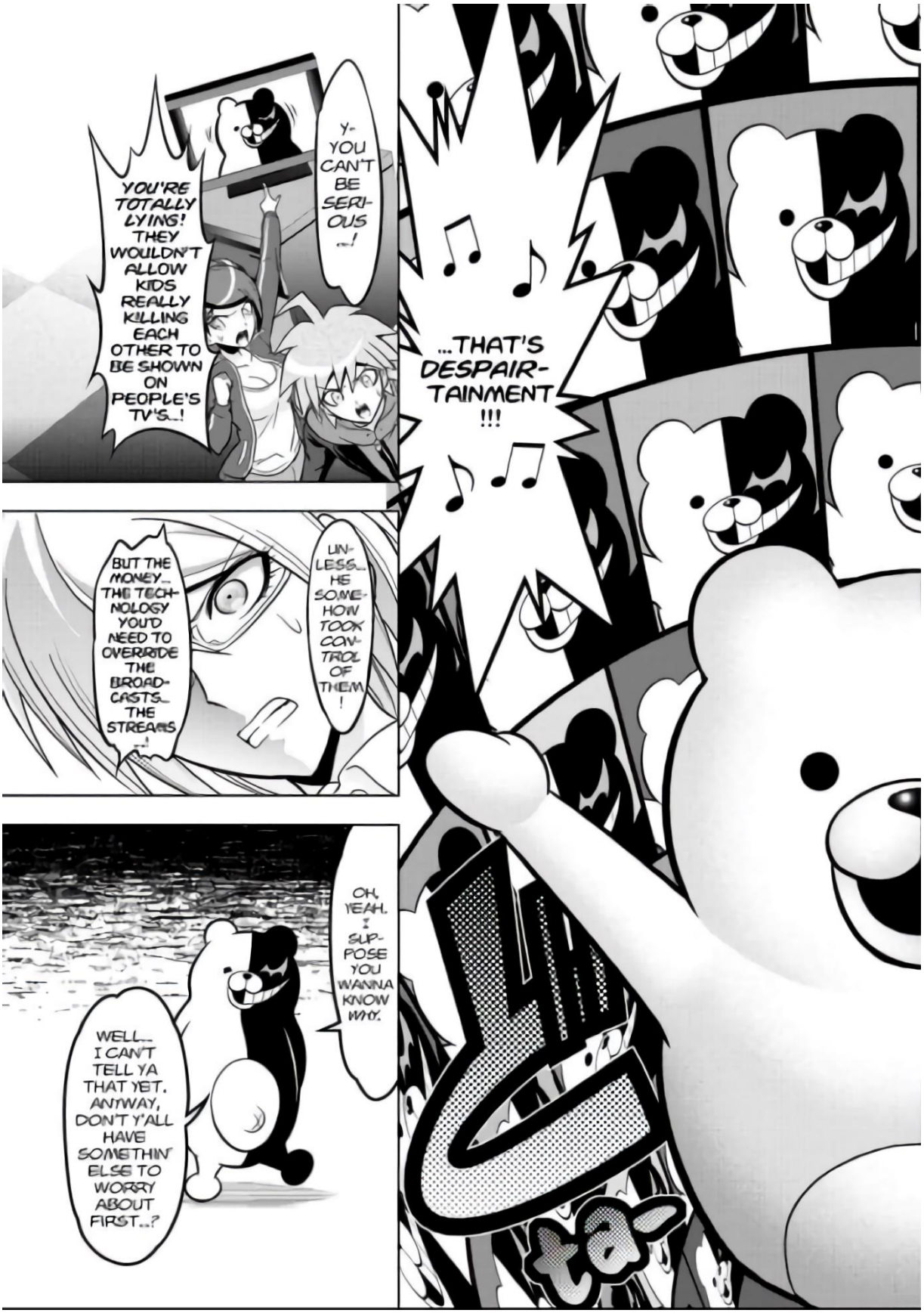
M-M-MONOKUMA !!!
YO.

UM...
...YOU MEAN WE'RE ON TV ?!?


I AM INDEED THE AUTEUR OF THIS LITTLE PRO-GRAMME DE TÉLÉ-RÉAL-ITÉ!!
BUT I DO WANNA CREDIT SLOB MARLEY THERE FOR HIS BRIL-LIANT DIS-COV-ERY !
SOUNDS CONTRA-DICTORY? HEY, WAIT TILL YA PUNKS GET TO COLLEGE AN' MAJOR IN MEDIA STUDIES !!!

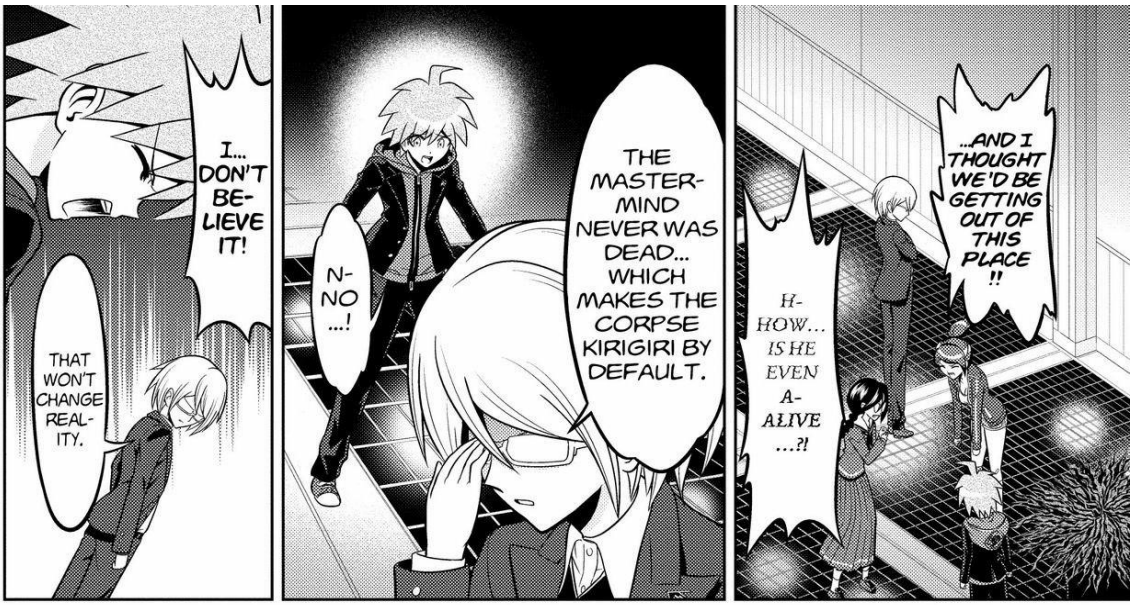
I-I... THOUGHT Y-YOU WERE D-DEAD!
HO HO! NEVER ASSUME A BEAR'S DEAD UNTIL YA SEE TH' RUG!

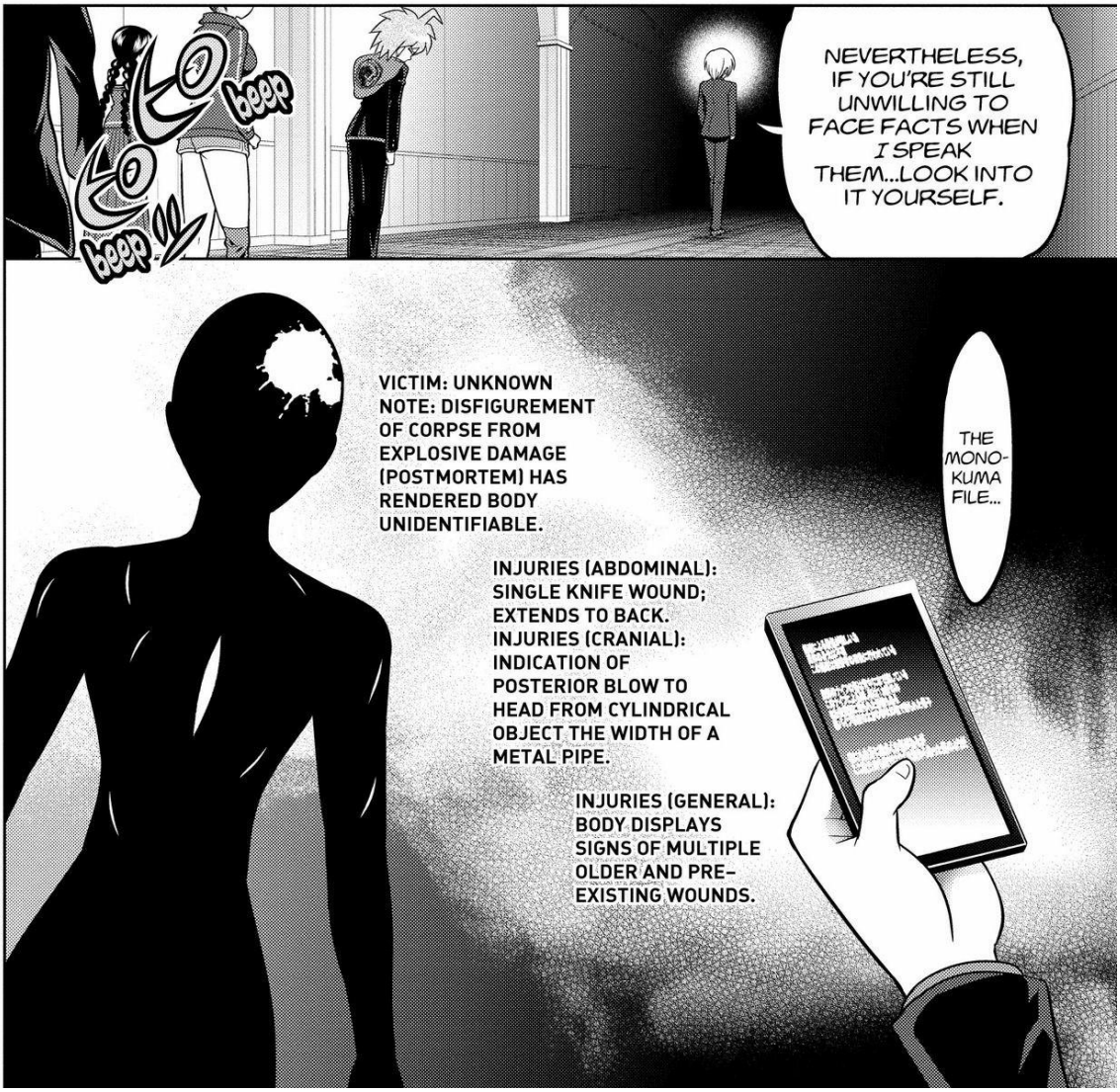
...THE JOCK BEAT SOFT BY BASE-BALLS THAT WHOCK...!
...THE GOTH GETTIN' BURNED LIKE A MOTH...OR LAPTOPS CRUSHED 'CAUSE OF TOO MUCH TALK!!
THE TRUTH!
YUP!!
...IN FACT, YOUR DEATHS ARE ON LIVE ACROSS THE NATION!
daa!!


Y-YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS...!
YOU'RE TOTALLY LYING! THEY WOULDN'T ALLOW KIDS REALLY KILLING EACH OTHER TO BE SHOWN ON PEOPLE'S TV'S...!
...THAT'S DESPAIR-TAINMENT !!!
UN-LESS... HE SOME-HOW TOOK CON-TROL OF THEM!
BUT THE MONEY... THE TECH-NOLOGY YOU'D NEED TO OVERRIDE THE BROAD-CASTS... THE STREAMS...!
OH, YEAH. I SUP-POSE YOU WANNA KNOW WHY.
WELL... I CAN'T TELL YA THAT YET. ANYWAY, DON'T Y'ALL HAVE SOMETHIN' ELSE TO WORRY ABOUT FIRST...?

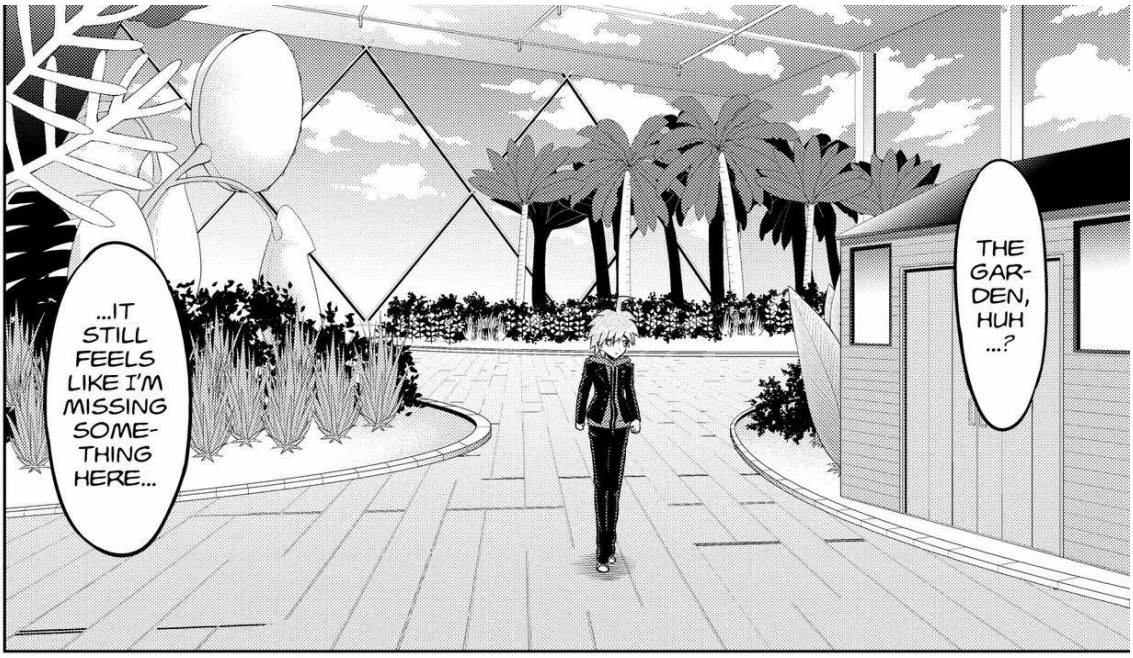
ポーン
ding
パーン
dong
ポーン
ding
ピーン
dong
AND BY TECHNICALLY, I MEAN ACTUALLY. SO STUDENTS, INVESTIGATE, GO TO TRIAL, GET EXECUTED, YADDA YADDA.
YES! TECHNICALLY, A BODY HAS BEEN FOUND !!
CAN'T WAIT TO READ THE VIEWER COMMENTS FOR TODAY !
WELP, GOTTA GO.
THE POINT! THE POINT, SHE SAYS! U PU PUU! U PU PU PUU...
OH, C'MON. YOU KIDS MAKE ME LAUGH. U PU... U PU PUU...
W-WHAT'S THE POINT... AFTER TELLING US ALL THIS ...?
HOW CAN YOU ...!

And if what's left bare beneath is the truth...what use is it...
...when the truth is so incomprehensible... is so senseless...?
It's despair.
Horribly... like the burnt skin... on that corpse...
But it's snapping... cracking...
I don't get it... He says it's a show...? It doesn't make any sense...
I've tried to hold on to my old life in here... my old mind...
UP NEXT: THE CLASS TRIAL!
DON'T GO AWAY!!
da-dum!

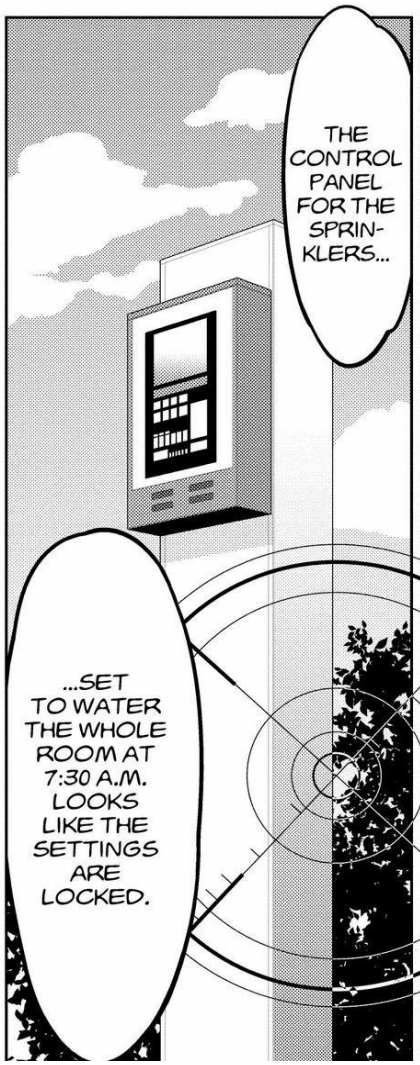

I... DON'T BE-LIEVE IT!
THAT WON'T CHANGE REAL-ITY.
N-NO ...!
THE MASTER-MIND NEVER WAS DEAD... WHICH MAKES THE CORPSE KIRIGIRI BY DEFAULT.
H-HOW... IS HE EVEN A-ALIVE ...?!
...AND I THOUGHT WE'D BE GETTING OUT OF THIS PLACE !!


beep
beep
NEVERTHELESS, IF YOU'RE STILL UNWILLING TO FACE FACTS WHEN I SPEAK THEM...LOOK INTO IT YOURSELF.
VICTIM: UNKNOWN
NOTE: DISFIGUREMENT OF CORPSE FROM EXPLOSIVE DAMAGE (POSTMORTEM) HAS RENDERED BODY UNIDENTIFIABLE.
INJURIES (ABDOMINAL): SINGLE KNIFE WOUND; EXTENDS TO BACK.
INJURIES (CRANIAL): INDICATION OF POSTERIOR BLOW TO HEAD FROM CYLINDRICAL OBJECT THE WIDTH OF A METAL PIPE.
INJURIES (GENERAL): BODY DISPLAYS SIGNS OF MULTIPLE OLDER AND PRE-EXISTING WOUNDS.
THE MONO-KUMA FILE...

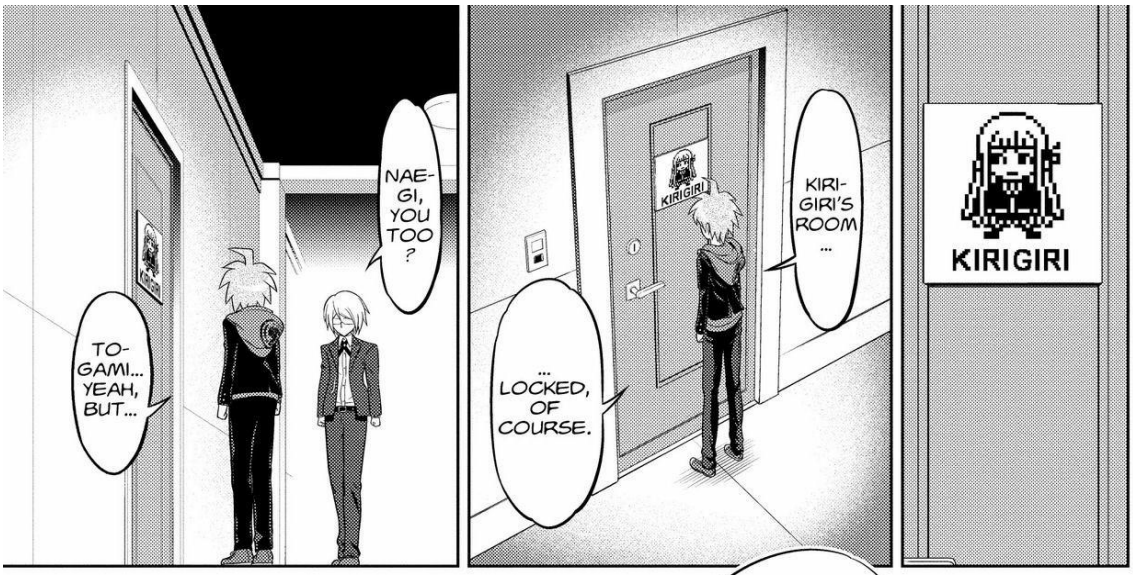
He's wrong...
Tell me it isn't you, Kirigiri...
Were these under her gloves all along...?
AREN'T THESE FAKE NAILS ...?
AND THIS TATTOO... A DOG'S HEAD...?
SHE'S BURNT BEYOND RECOG-NITION...
HUH?... THERE'S SOME-THING ON HER HAND...


...IT STILL FEELS LIKE I'M MISSING SOMETHING HERE...
THE GARDEN, HUH ...?

Wait...the body wasn't wet before the explosion...
That was at 9:00 sharp. It'd close the window of murder down to...

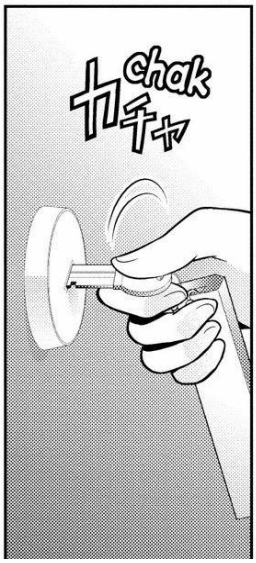

THE CONTROL PANEL FOR THE SPRINKLERS...
...SET TO WATER THE WHOLE ROOM AT 7:30 A.M. LOOKS LIKE THE SETTINGS ARE LOCKED.

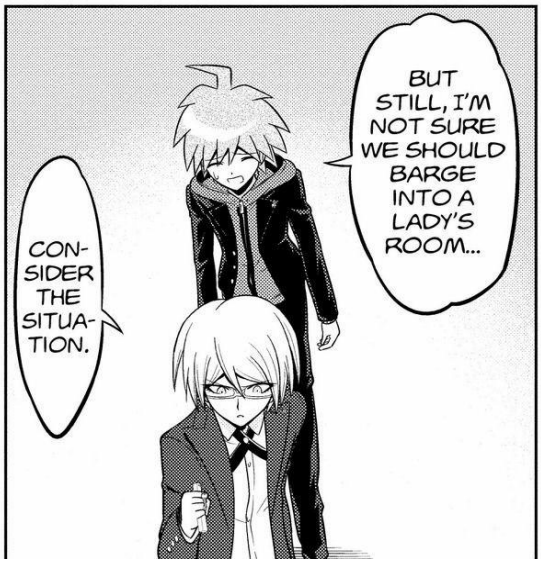
A TARP... IT'S SOAKING WET ON ONE SIDE...
WHY JUST ONE SIDE ...?

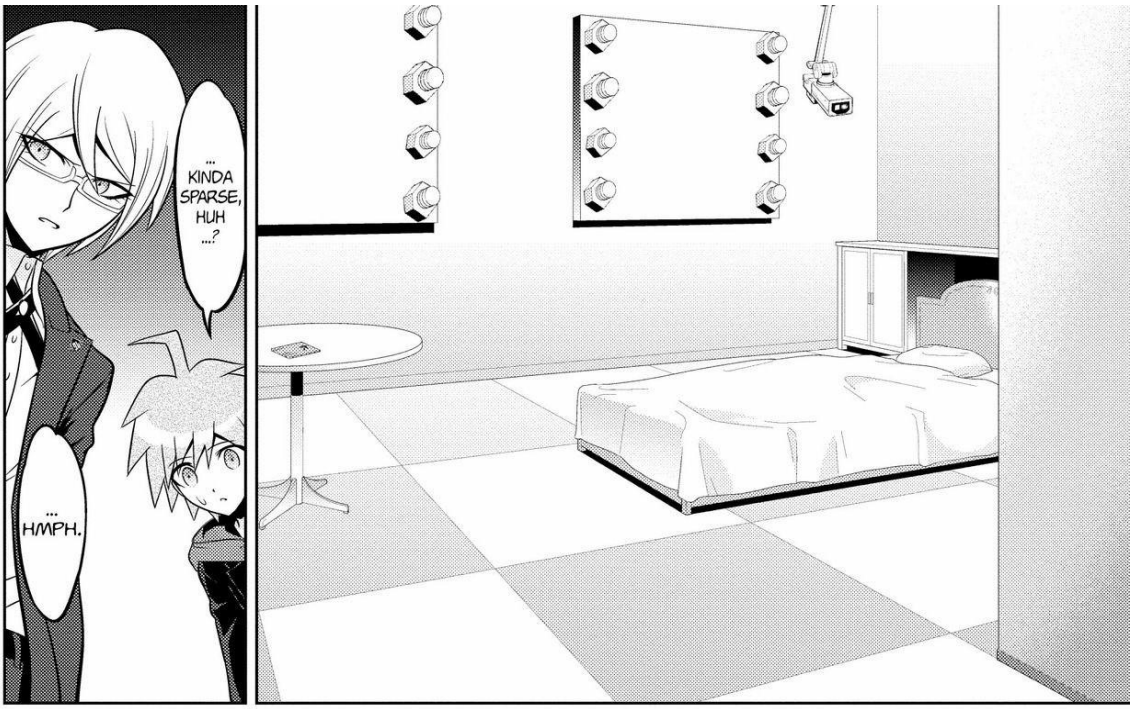

NAE-GI, YOU TOO?
TO-GAMI... YEAH, BUT...
KIRI-GIRI'S ROOM...
...LOCKED, OF COURSE.
KIRIGIRI
KIRIGIRI

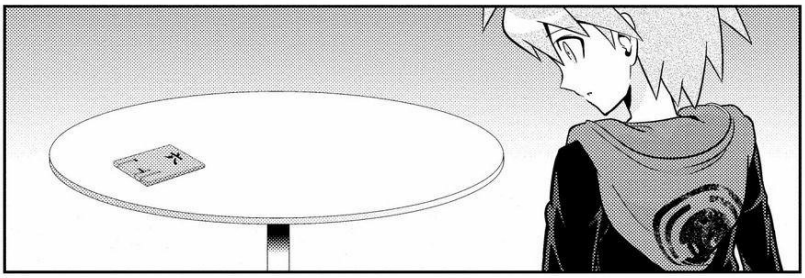
HAVE YOU FOR-GOT-TEN?
AH...
ching

Creeak


カチャ
Chak

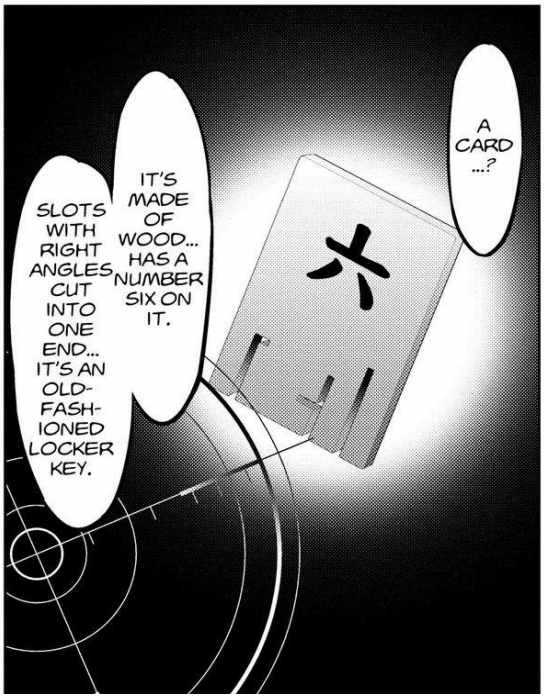

BUT STILL, I'M NOT SURE WE SHOULD BARGE INTO A LADY'S ROOM...
CON-SIDER THE SITUA-TION.


... KINDA SPARSE, HUH ...?
... HMPH.



NOW WE LOOK.
SORRY, KIRI-GIRI...

fwapp


A CARD ...?
IT'S MADE OF WOOD... HAS A NUMBER SIX ON IT.
SLOTS WITH RIGHT ANGLES CUT INTO ONE END... IT'S AN OLD-FASH-IONED LOCKER KEY.

WH-WHAT IF SHE STASH-ES WEIRD STUFF IN HER BED ...?
...WHY, SO SHE DOES.

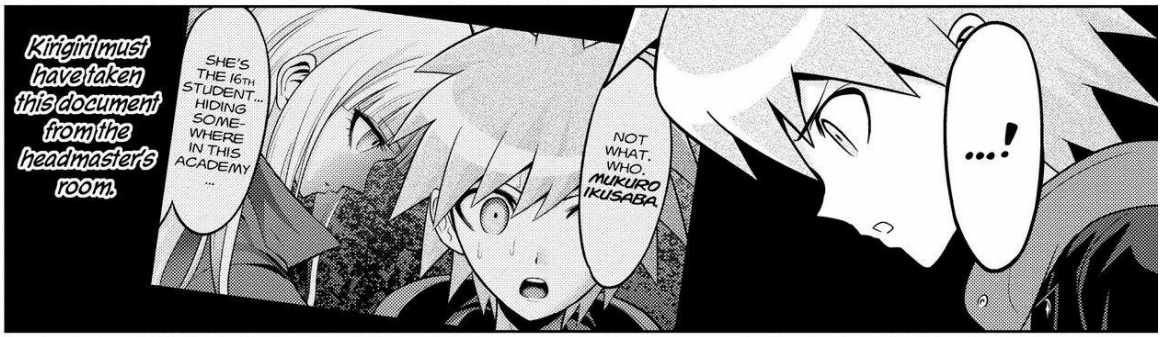
WHOA ...! TO-GAMI ...!
rustle
woosh

AND IT'S FOR A STUDENT NAMED MUKU-RO...
... IKUSABA.

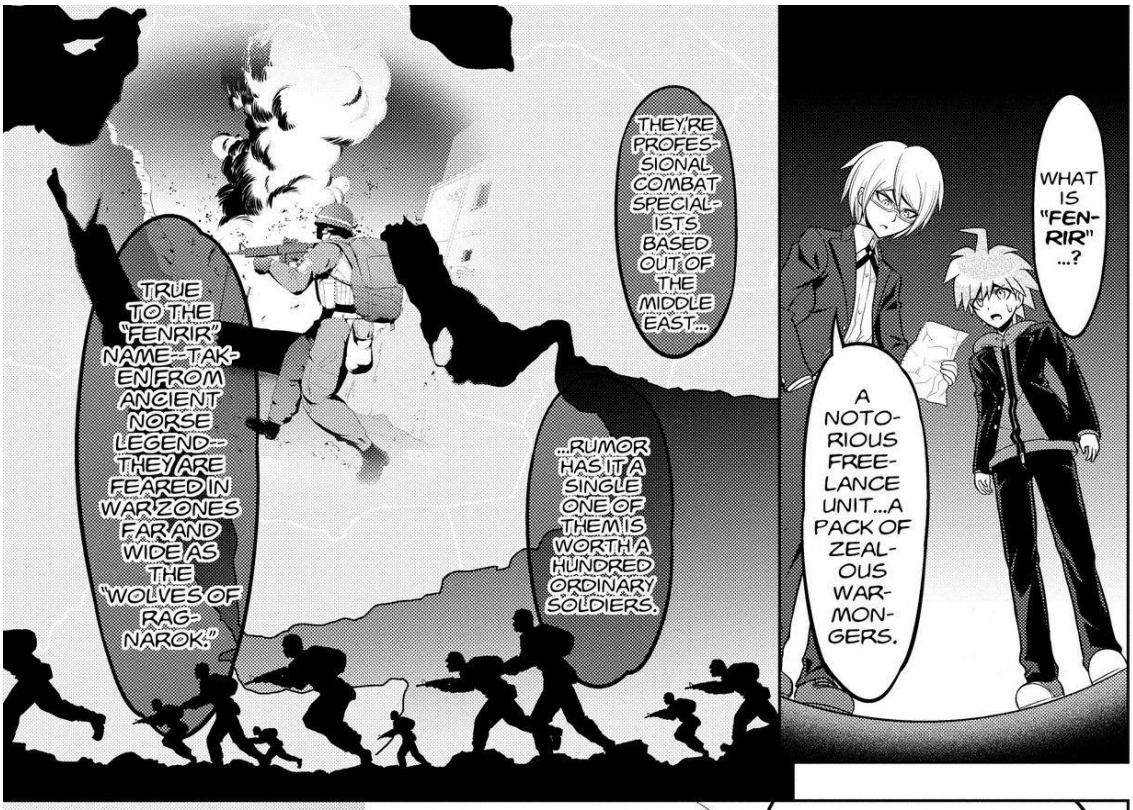
SO WHAT IS IT ?!
IT'S FROM THE REGIS-TRY OF THE 78TH CLASS OF HOPE'S PEAK ACAD-EMY... OUR CLASS.

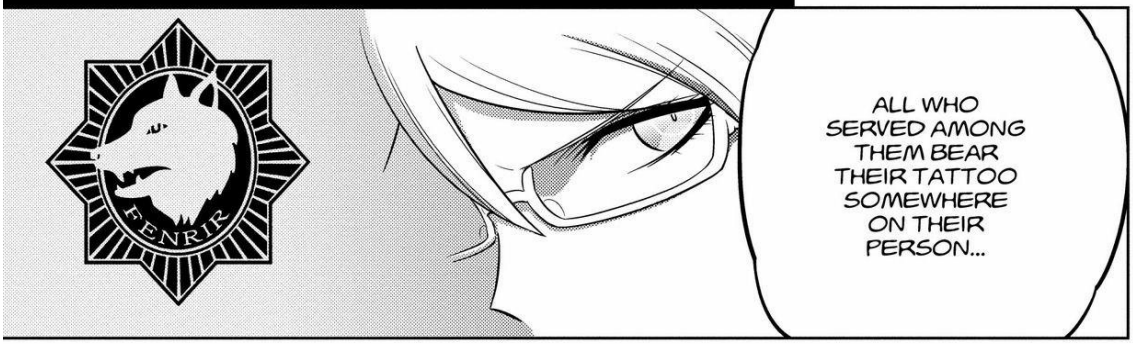
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, THIS WAS TORN OUT OF A FILE.
I'M NOT SURPRISED TO FIND SHE WAS HIDING MORE INFORMATION FROM US. THAT WAS HER WAY ALL ALONG...

NAME LAST FIRST
IKUSABA, MUKURO
FEMALE
ULTIMATE SOLDIER
REPORT
ULTIMATE SOLDIER
MUKURO IKUSABA
...IS OUR CLASS-MATE ...?
THE "ULTI-MATE SOL-DIER"...

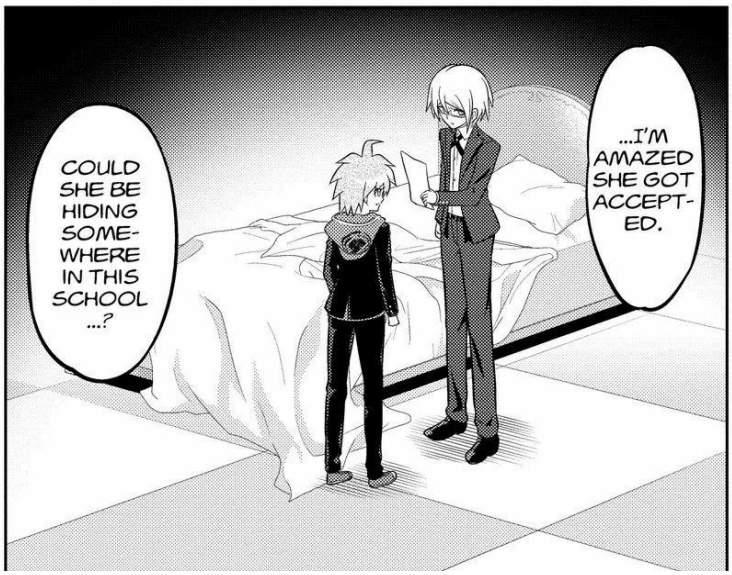

Kirigiri must have taken this document from the headmaster's room.
SHE'S THE 16TH STUDENT... HIDING SOME-WHERE IN THIS ACADEMY ...
NOT WHAT. WHO. MUKURO IKUSABA.
...!

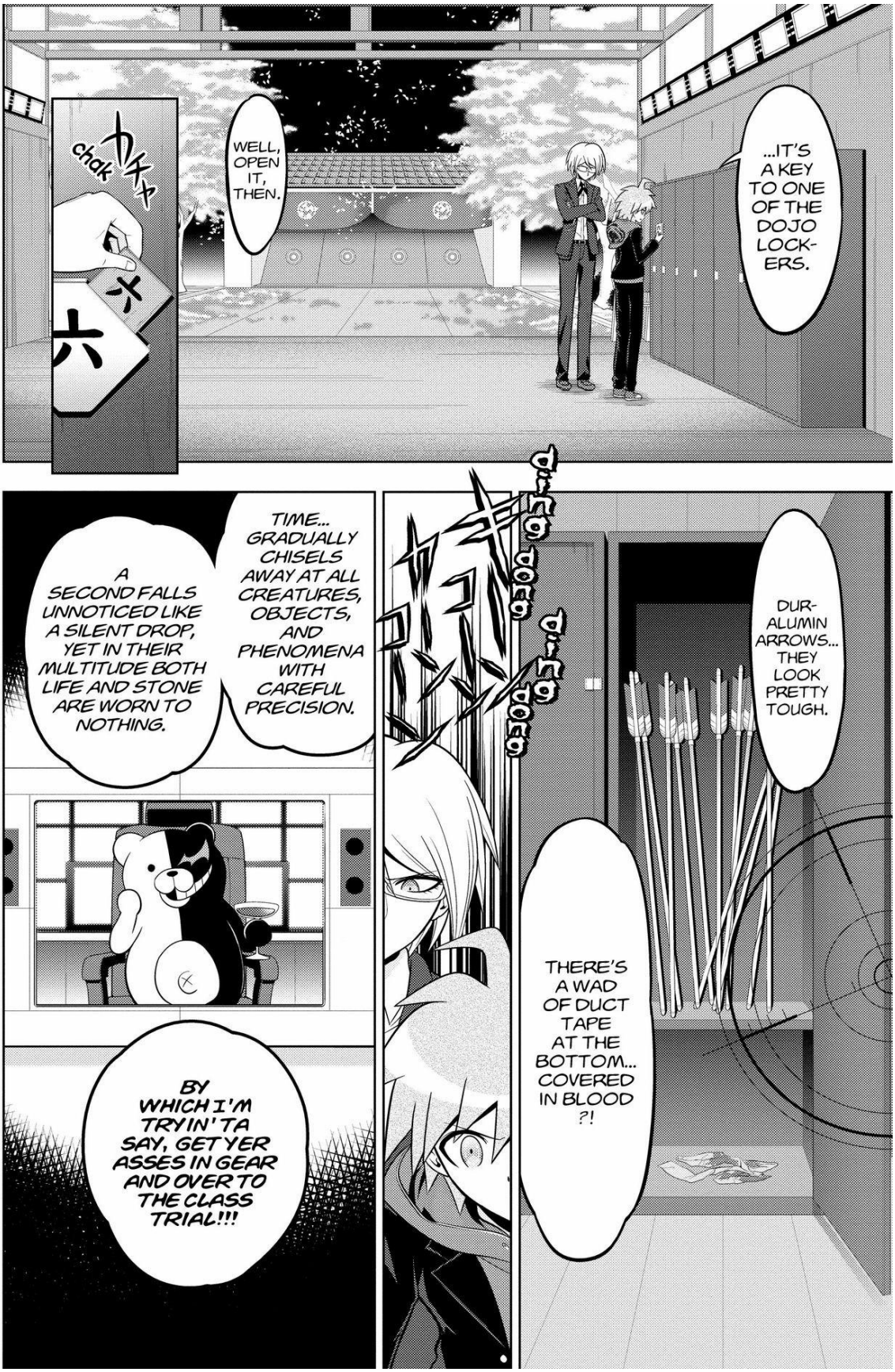
"BOASTING IMMENSE FIGHTING PROWESS, HER BODY REMAINED UNMARRED BY BATTLE WOUNDS..."
"CLAIMED TO HAVE WILLINGLY RECEIVED COMBAT TRAINING FROM THE MERCENARY GROUP 'FENRIR'..."
"RE-TURNED TO JAPAN THREE YEARS LATER ON HER OWN."
"DISAP-PEARED ON A FAMILY TRIP IN EUROPE DIRECTLY BEFORE ENTERING MIDDLE SCHOOL."

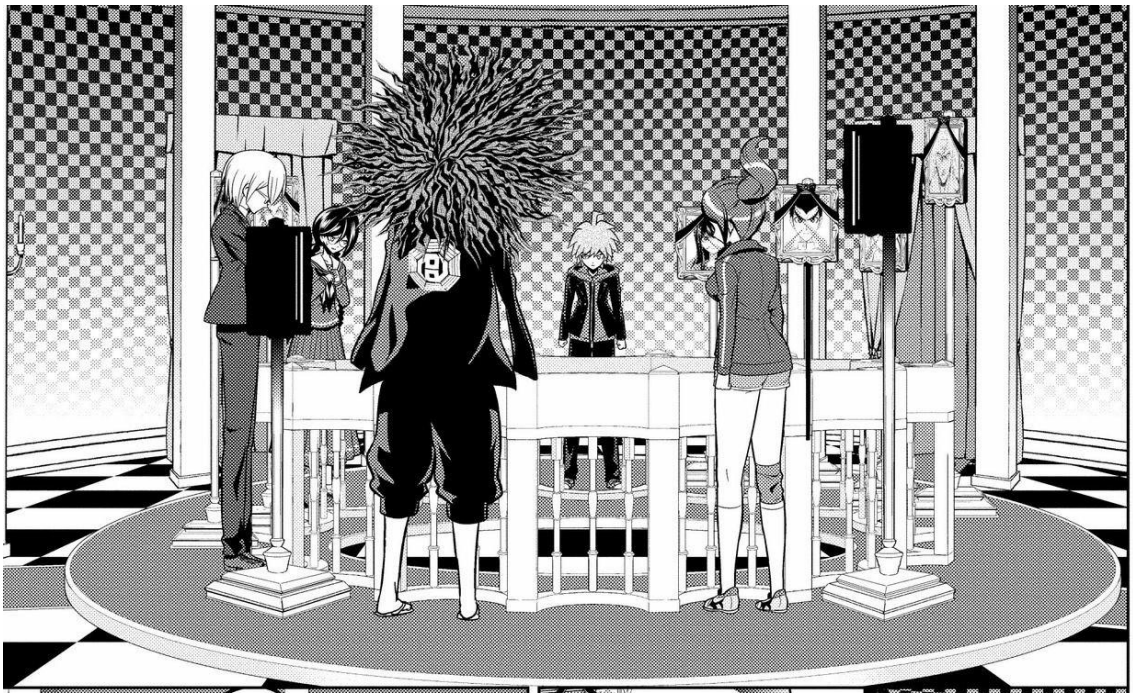

THEY'RE PROFESSIONAL COMBAT SPECIALISTS BASED OUT OF THE MIDDLE EAST...
TRUE TO THE "FENRIR" NAME--TAKEN FROM ANCIENT NORSE LEGEND--THEY ARE FEARED IN WARZONES FAR AND WIDE AS THE "WOLVES OF RAGNAROK."
...RUMOR HAS IT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM IS WORTH A HUNDRED ORDINARY SOLDIERS.
WHAT IS "FENRIR"...?
A NOTORIOUS FREELANCE UNIT...A PACK OF ZEALOUS WARMONGERS.


FENRIR
ALL WHO SERVED AMONG THEM BEAR THEIR TATTOO SOMEWHERE ON THEIR PERSON...

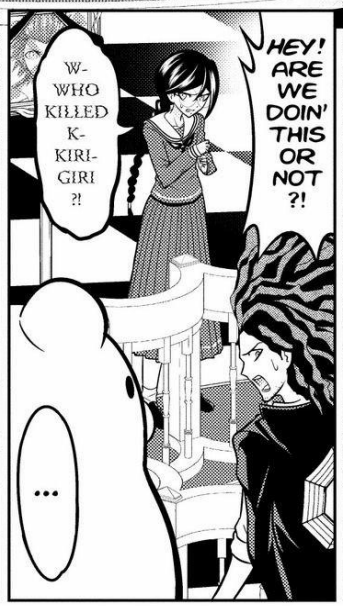
But...

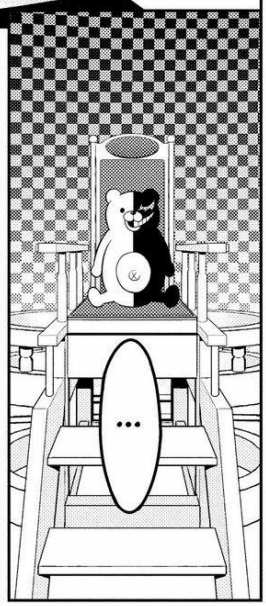

COULD SHE BE HIDING SOMEWHERE IN THIS SCHOOL...?
...I'M AMAZED SHE GOT ACCEPTED.


...IT'S A KEY TO ONE OF THE DOJO LOCK-ERS.
WELL, OPEN IT, THEN.
chak
カチャ
六
DUR-ALUMIN ARROWS... THEY LOOK PRETTY TOUGH.
THERE'S A WAD OF DUCT TAPE AT THE BOTTOM... COVERED IN BLOOD ?!
ダーダダ ダダダ
ダーダダ ダダダ
TIME... GRADUALLY CHISELS AWAY AT ALL CREATURES, OBJECTS, AND PHENOMENA WITH CAREFUL PRECISION.
A SECOND FALLS UNNOTICED LIKE A SILENT DROP, YET IN THEIR MULTITUDE BOTH LIFE AND STONE ARE WORN TO NOTHING.
BY WHICH I'M TRYIN' TA SAY, GET YER ASSES IN GEAR AND OVER TO THE CLASS TRIAL!!!



YA KNOW THE DEAL.
I CAN'T START THE TRIAL TILL EVERYONE'S HERE.


W-WHO KILLED K-KIRI-GIRI ?!
HEY! ARE WE DOIN' THIS OR NOT ?!
...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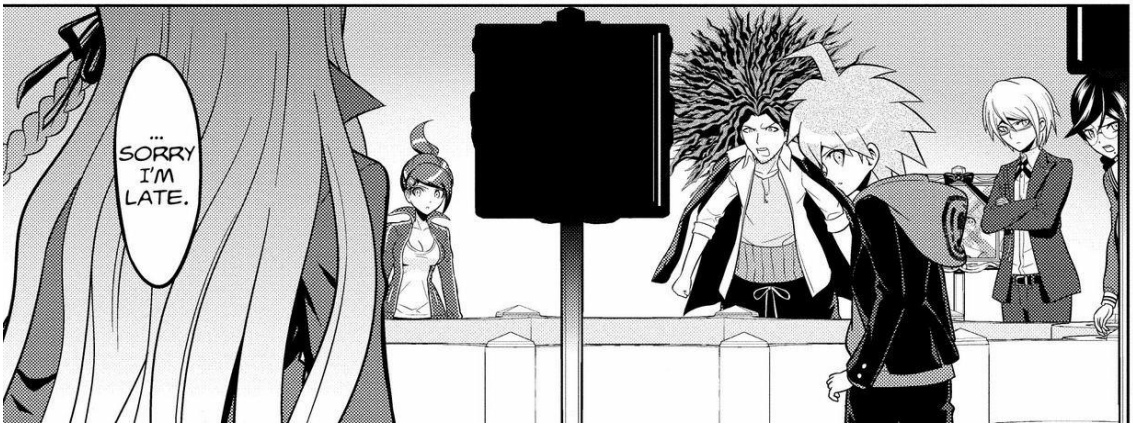
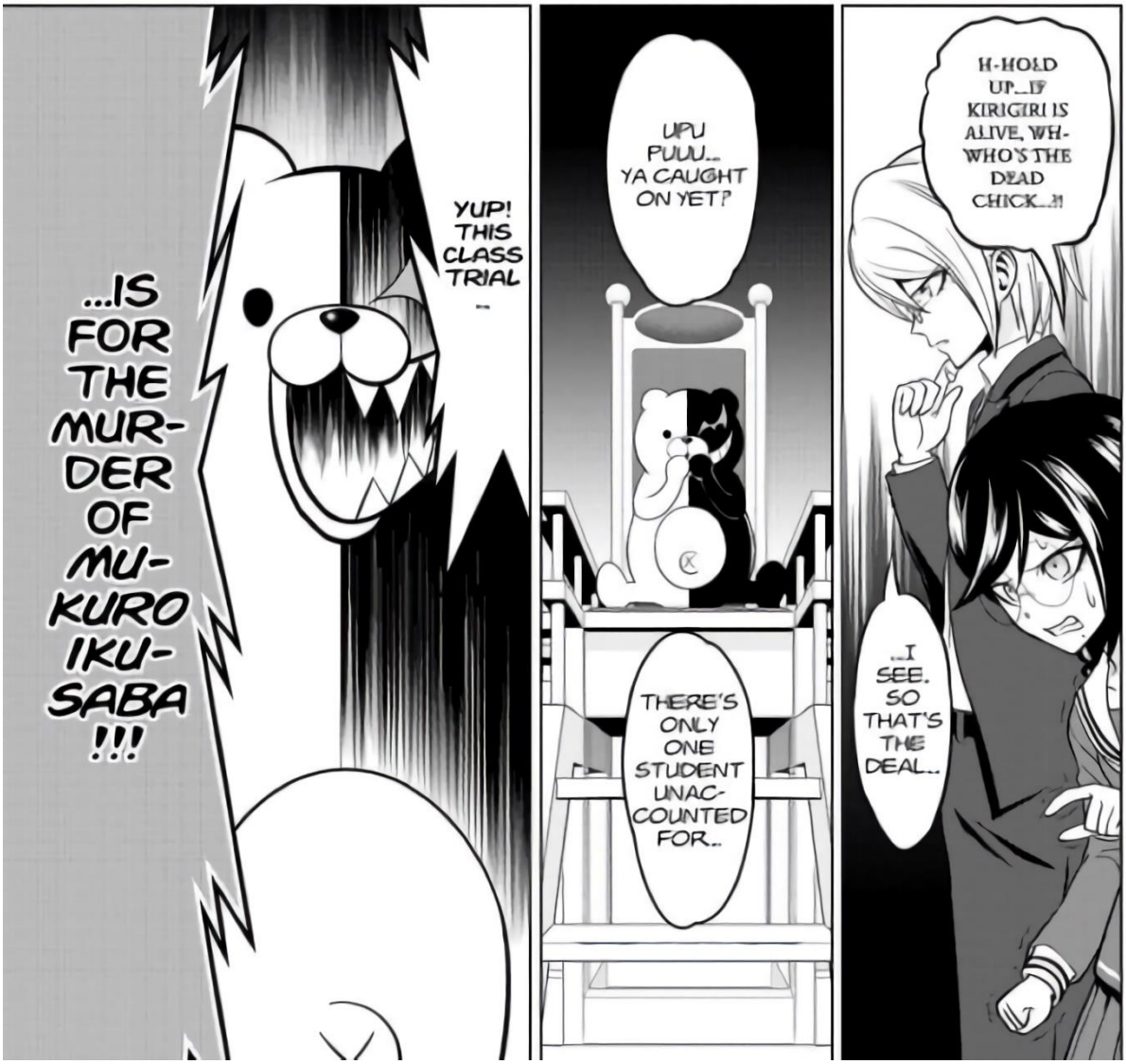
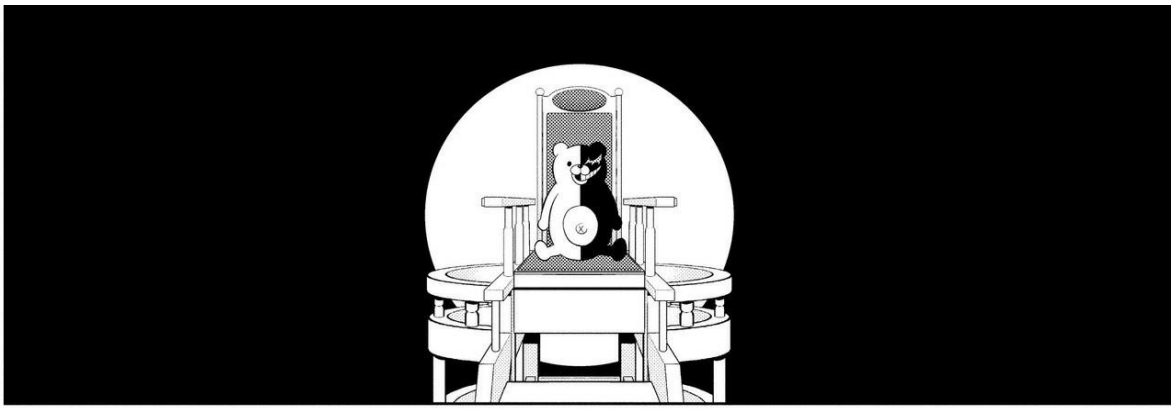
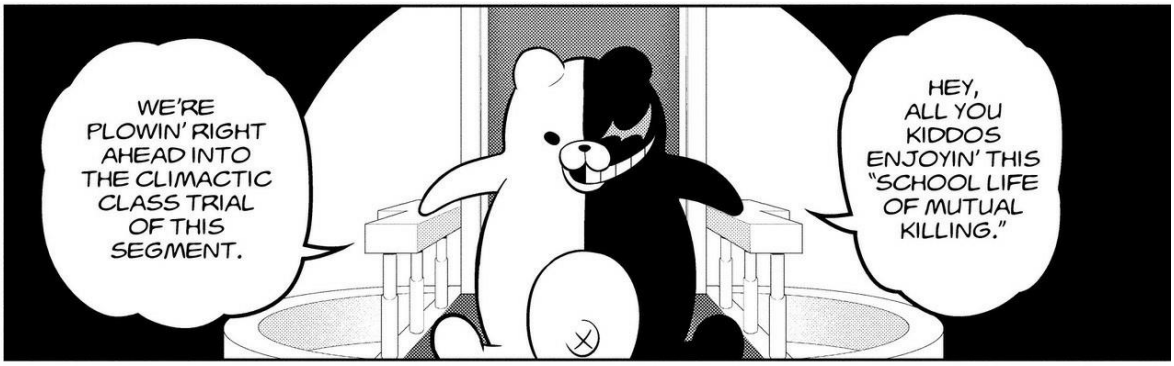

... SORRY I'M LATE.

da-dum
I SAY SHE'S JUST TARDY! BUT ANYWAY, NOW WE CAN BEGIN...
ORA G-G-GHOST ?!
YOU'RE ALIVE !!
KIRI-GIRL..
THANK GOD...
..I PROMISED I'D STAY ALIVE, DIDN'T I?

KIRIGIRI!!!


H-HOLD UP...IF KIRIGIRI IS ALIVE, WH-WHO'S THE DEAD CHICK...?!
...I SEE. SO THAT'S THE DEAL...
UPU PUUU... YA CAUGHT ON YET?
THERE'S ONLY ONE STUDENT UNAC-COUNTED FOR..
YUP! THIS CLASS TRIAL...
...IS FOR THE MUR-DER OF MU-KURO IKU-SABA!!!



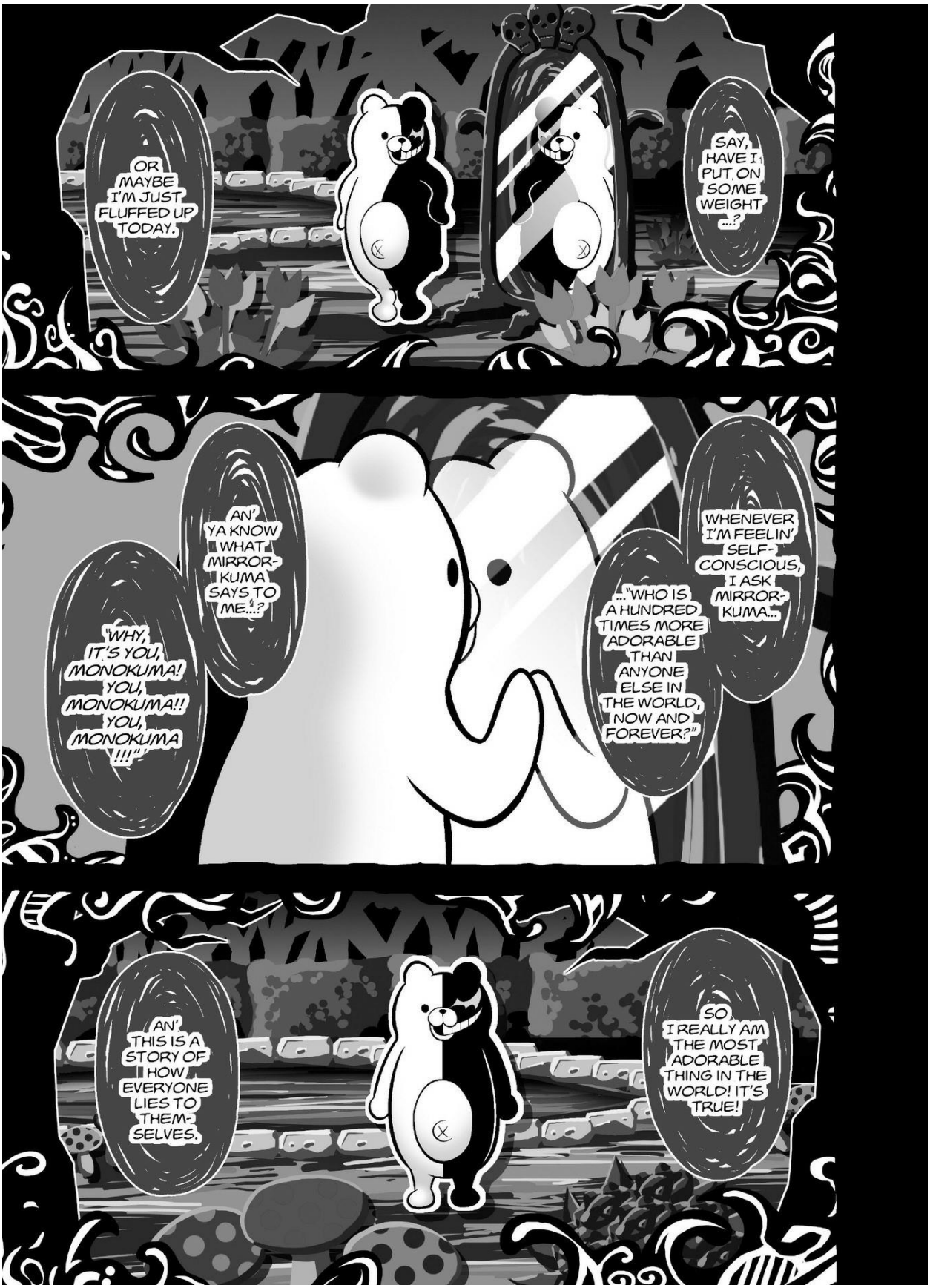

WE'RE PLOWIN' RIGHT AHEAD INTO THE CLIMACTIC CLASS TRIAL OF THIS SEGMENT.
HEY, ALL YOU KIDDOS ENJOYIN' THIS "SCHOOL LIFE OF MUTUAL KILLING."

I DON'T SEE THIS SCHOOL LIFE ENDIN' ANYTIME SOON ...!
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST START PREP-PIN' THE PUNISH-MENT NOW ...?
#13 END

IT'S SO OBVI-OUS WHO THE KILLER IS!
DANG, IT COULDN'T GET ANY EASIER THAN THIS!

DANGANRONPA
A SCHOOL OF HOPE . . . WITH STUDENTS OF DESPAIR!
THE ANIMATION

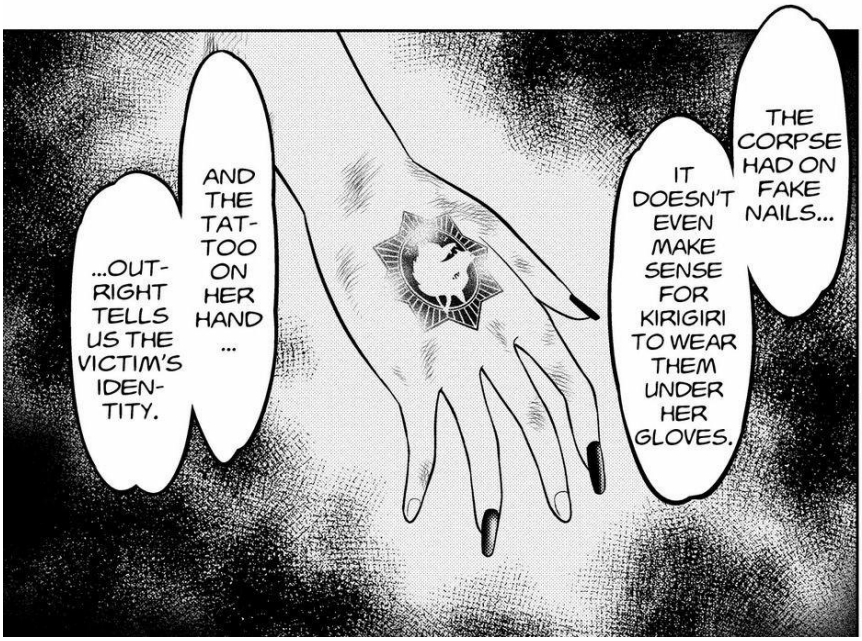
DANGANRONPA
A SCHOOL OF HOPE . . . WITH STUDENTS OF DESPAIR!
THE ANIMATION


OR MAYBE I'M JUST FLUFFED UP TODAY.
SAY, HAVE I PUT ON SOME WEIGHT...?
AN' YA KNOW WHAT MIRROR-KUMA SAYS TO ME...?
WHENEVER I'M FEELIN' SELF-CONSCIOUS, I ASK MIRROR-KUMA...
"WHY, IT'S YOU, MONOKUMA! YOU, MONOKUMA!! YOU, MONOKUMA!!!"
..."WHO IS A HUNDRED TIMES MORE ADORABLE THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD, NOW AND FOREVER?"
AN' THIS IS A STORY OF HOW EVERYONE LIES TO THEM-SELVES.
SO, I REALLY AM THE MOST ADORABLE THING IN THE WORLD! IT'S TRUE!

#14 [ABNORMAL ARC: 100 MILE DASH; DISHEARTENING JUNK FOOD FOR THE RACE THROUGH YOUTH (DEADLY LIFE) II]

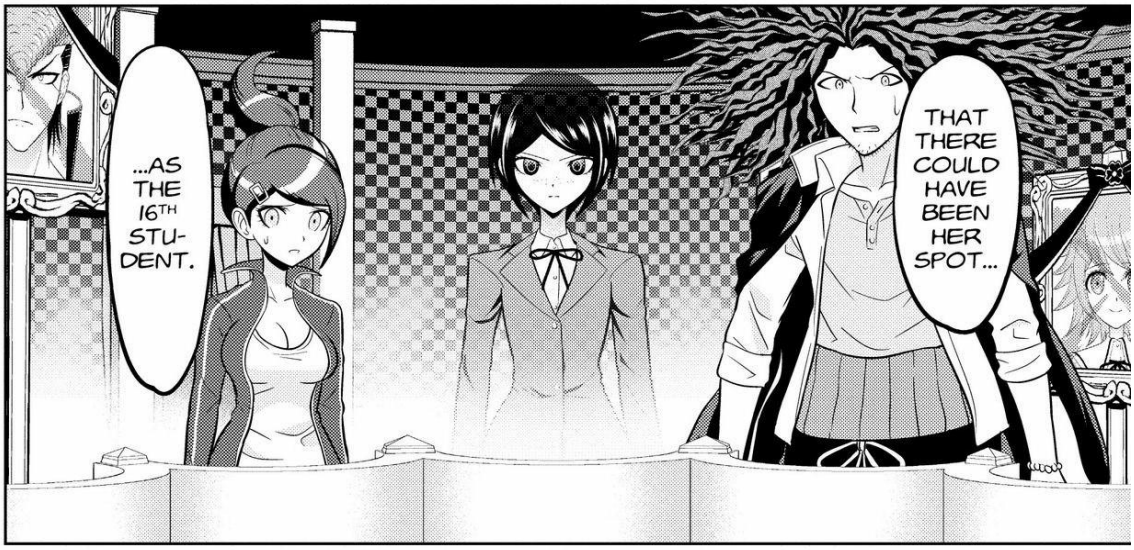
BUT... WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
NAEGI, NOT NOW.
I SUS-PECT THAT THIS TRIAL ...
...WILL PROVE THE MOST CRUCIAL MOMENT OF MY LIFE.

THE DEAD CHICK'S MUKURO IKUSABA ?!!
BUT AIN'T KYOKO DEAD?! I'M TELLIN' YA, THIS GIRL'S A GHOST!!

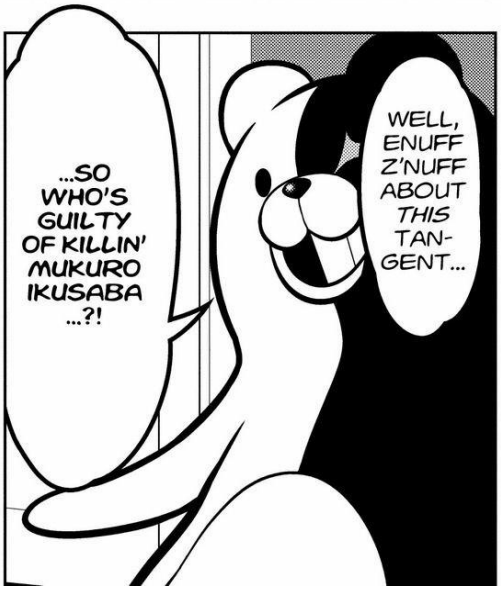

THE CORPSE HAD ON FAKE NAILS...
IT DOESN'T EVEN MAKE SENSE FOR KIRIGIRI TO WEAR THEM UNDER HER GLOVES.
AND THE TAT-TOO ON HER HAND ...
...OUT-RIGHT TELLS US THE VICTIM'S IDEN-TITY.

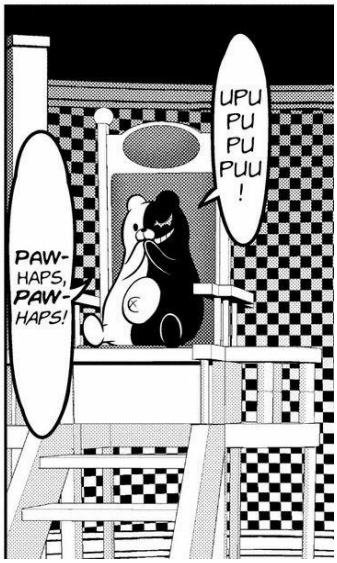
...OF A LIV-ING PER-SON ?
JUST... NO, HAGA-KURE.

IT'S SAFE TO CONCLUDE THE BODY BELONGS TO THE "ULTIMATE SOLDIER," MUKURO IKUSABA.
--THE SAME GROUP THAT MUKURO IKUSABA BELONGED TO.
THE TATTOO REPRESENTS THE MERCENARY GROUP FENRIR --


...AS THE 16TH STUDENT.
THAT THERE COULD HAVE BEEN HER SPOT...

...IT'S QUITE CLEAR ...

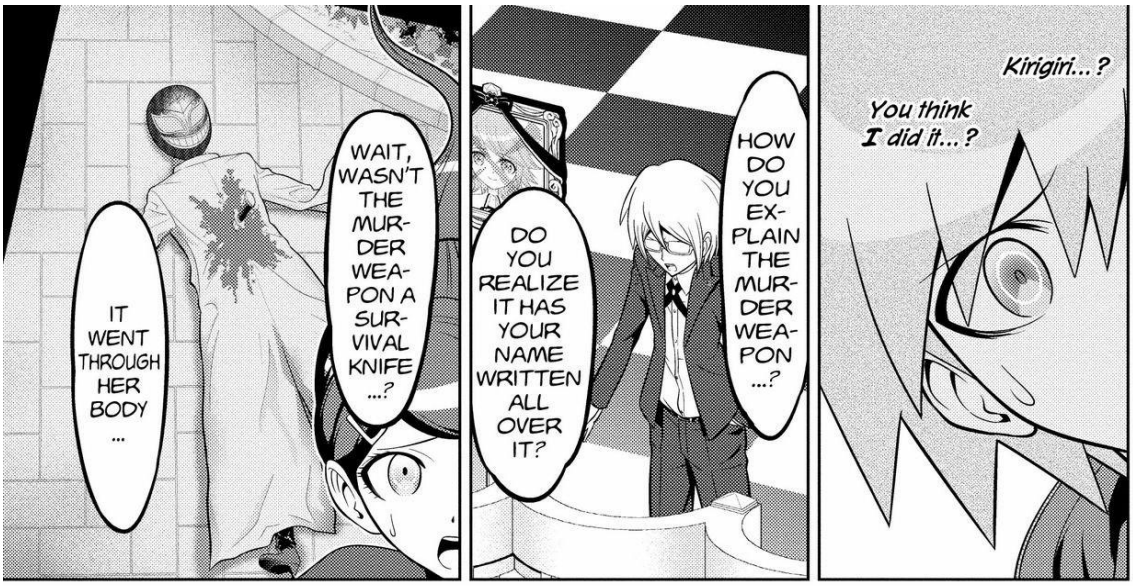

...SO WHO'S GUILTY OF KILLIN' MUKURO IKUSABA ...?!
WELL, ENUFF Z'NUFF ABOUT THIS TANGENT...


UPU PU PU PUU !
PAW-HAPS, PAW-HAPS!

KIRIGIRI, YOU'RE THE ONLY...
...FEASIBLE SUSPECT.
WHY ME...?
BODY DISCOVERED: 9:00 A.M
WE FOUND THE BODY AT 9:00 A.M. ...
HOWEVER, THE CORPSE WAS NOT WET. THIS MEANS THE MURDER COULD ONLY HAVE OCCURRED BETWEEN 7:30 A.M. AND 9:00 A.M. ...!
...KEEP IN MIND, THE GARDEN SPRINKLERS GO OFF FOR ONE MINUTE AT 7:30 A.M.
EVERYONE BUT YOU WAS IN THE GYM DURING THAT TIME FRAME.
...
SPRINKLER SYSTEM ACTIVATES: 7:30 A.M.

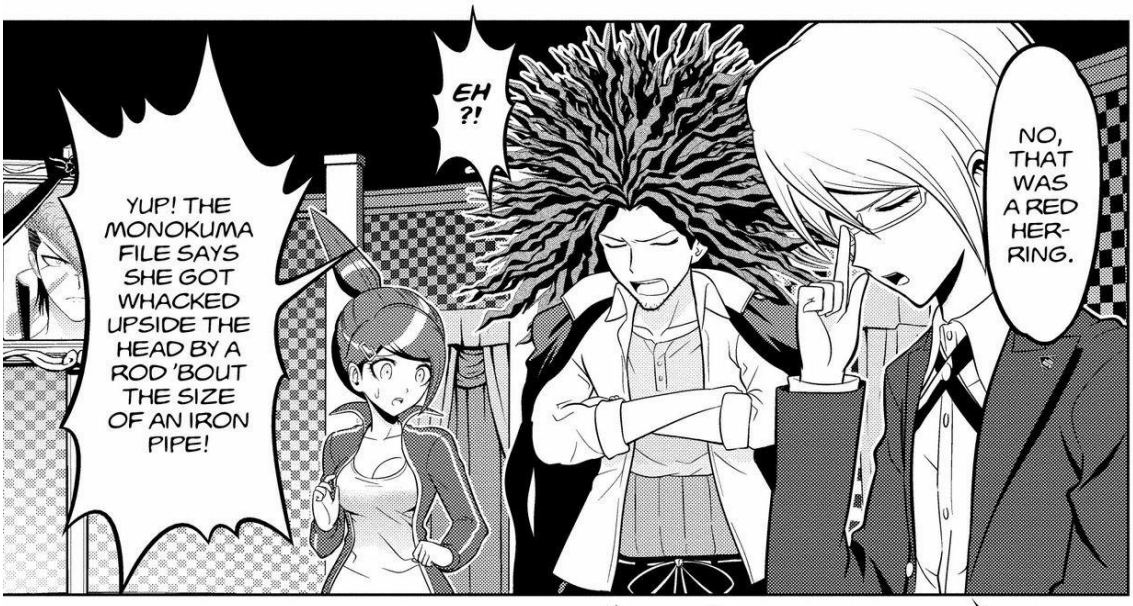
...BUT THE BODY WASN'T *THERE* LAST NIGHT.
AND AS A MATTER OF FACT, I FOUND A WET TARP.
THE BODY WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN WET...IF YOU COVERED IT WITH A TARP.
FUR-THER-MORE, HAGA-KURE, FUKAWA, ASAHINA, AND I SPENT THE NIGHT IN THE GYM.
USING THE TARP PREVENTS US FROM NARROWING DOWN A WINDOW FOR MURDER...THAT MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO VERIFY OUR ALIBIS.
THE FOUR OF US HAVE THE PERFECT ALIBI!

...DOESN'T THAT MAKE ***NAEGI*** A PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE SUSPECT?

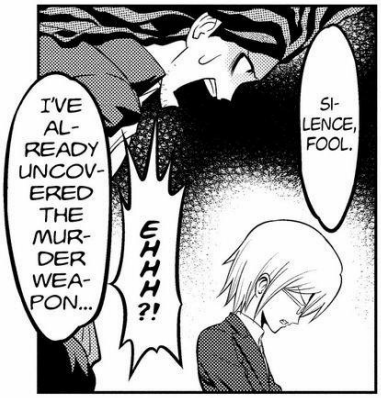

Kirigiri...?
You think I did it...?

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE MURDER WEAPON...?
DO YOU REALIZE IT HAS YOUR NAME WRITTEN ALL OVER IT?

WAIT, WASN'T THE MURDER WEAPON A SURVIVAL KNIFE...?
IT WENT THROUGH HER BODY...


NO, THAT WAS A RED HERRING.
EH?!
YUP! THE MONOKUMA FILE SAYS SHE GOT WHACKED UPSIDE THE HEAD BY A ROD 'BOUT THE SIZE OF AN IRON PIPE!

IN SHORT!!
THE MURDER WEAPON WAS AN IRON PIPE!!
da-dum(my)!!


SILENCE, FOOL.
EHHH?!
I'VE ALREADY UNCOVERED THE MURDER WEAPON...

THE KEY TO THE DOJO LOCKER WHERE YOU HID THE BLOOD-STAINED DUCT TAPE WAS DIS-COVERED IN YOUR ROOM.
THEY WERE BOUND WITH DUCT TAPE TO FORM A SINGLE, THICK ROD.
THERE WAS A CLUTCH OF METAL ARROWS IN ONE OF THE DOJO LOCKERS.

MY ROOM ...?

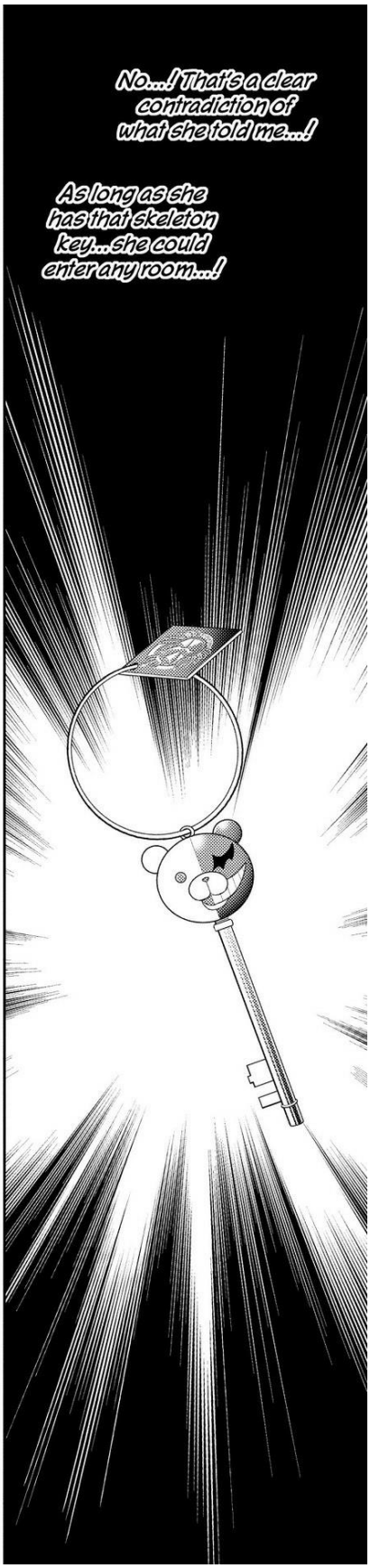
SOME-ONE MUST HAVE PUT IT THERE.
THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE LOCKER KEY?
I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE DOJO.

...Have you honestly never gone to the dojo...?
Kirigiri...?

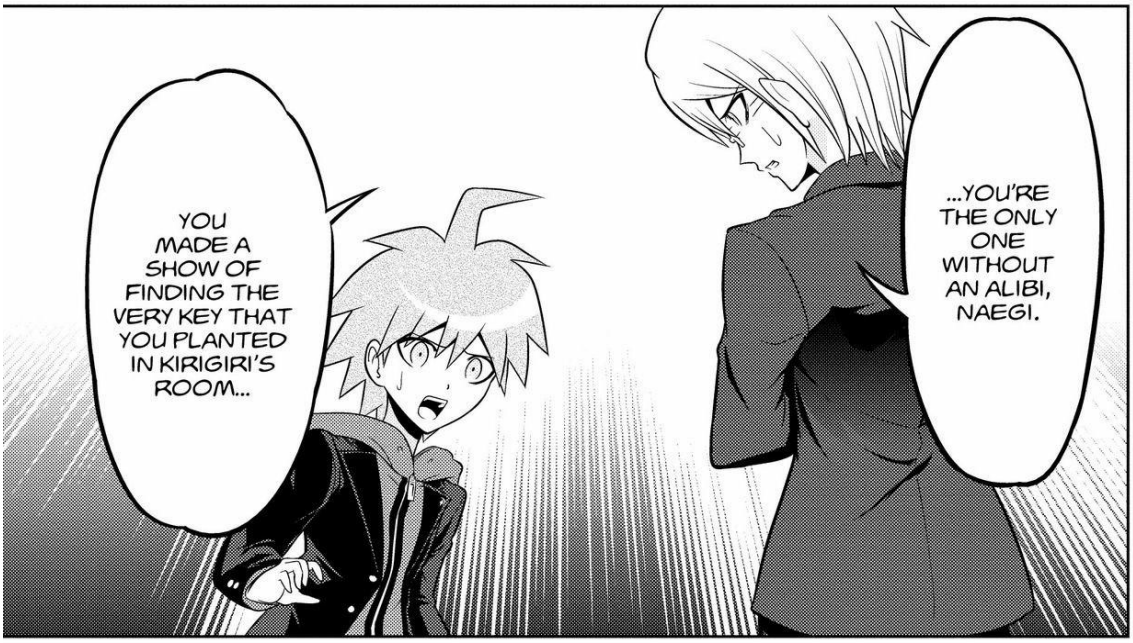
YOU SHOULD KNOW I'M INNOCENT BETTER THAN ANYONE.
I COULDN'T EVEN HAVE ENTERED MY ROOM... I GAVE YOU MY ROOM KEY!
ching

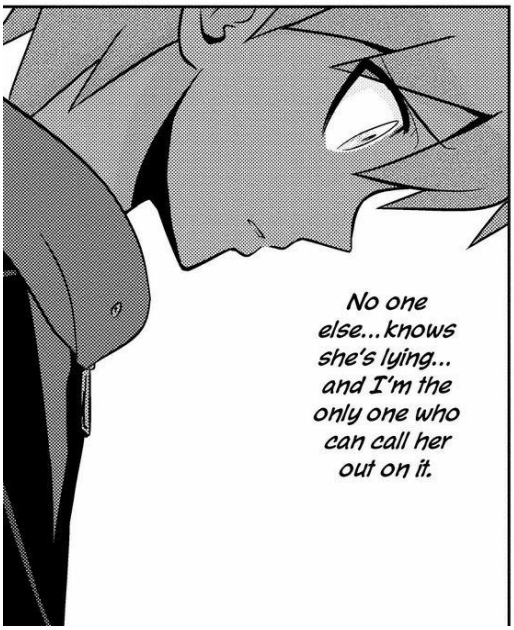
This isn't like her...
Why would Kirigiri make such a desperate lie...?!

IF I'M EXECUTED NOW, THE MYSTERIES SURROUND-ING THIS SCHOOL WILL NEVER COME TO LIGHT...
...THAT'S WHY...I CAN'T GO DOWN ...!


No...! That's a clear contradiction of what she told me...!
As long as she has that skeleton key...she could enter any room...!

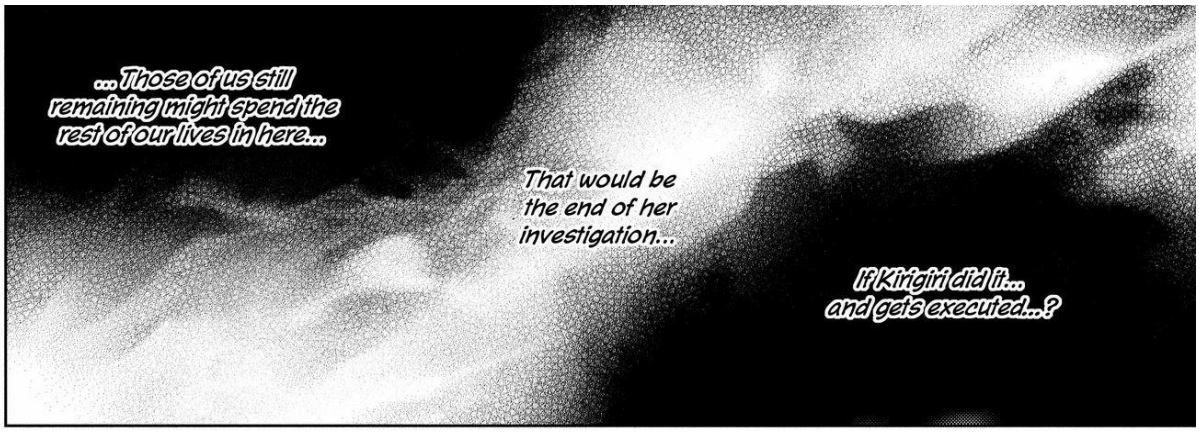
IN THAT CASE ...
YOU COULDN'T ENTER YOUR ROOM...

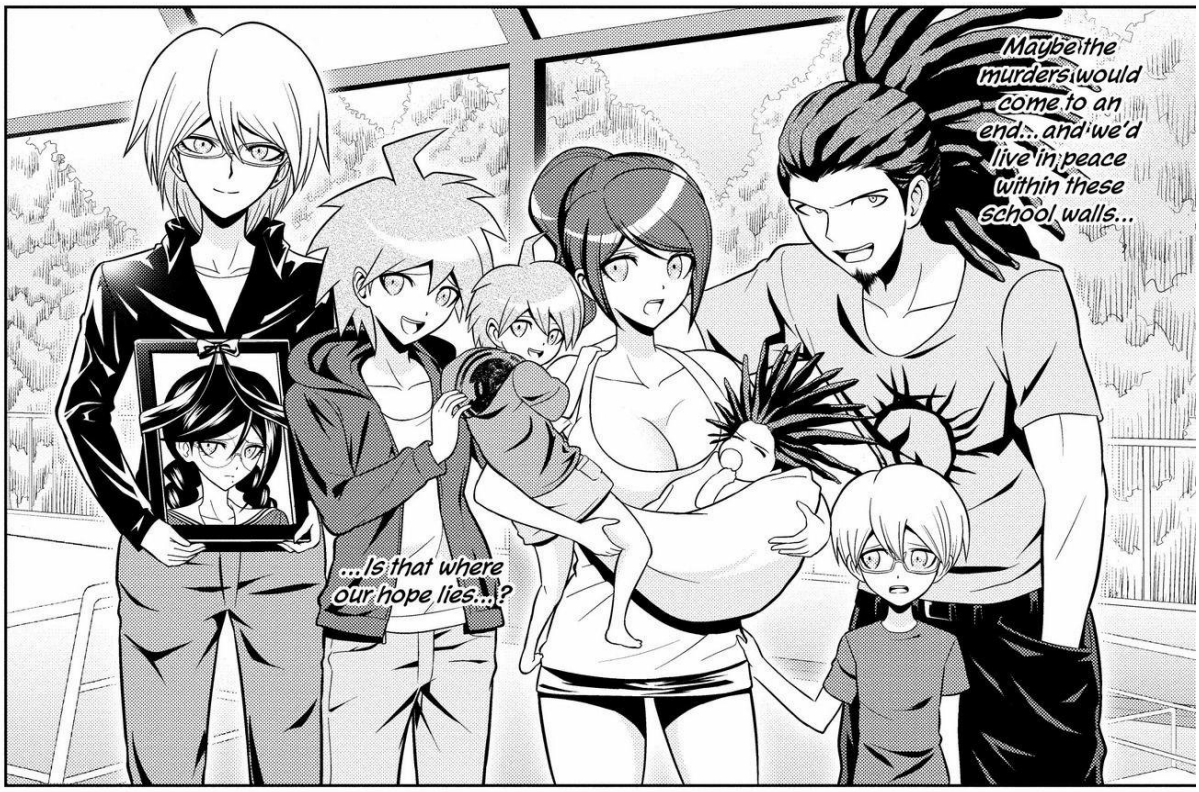

YOU MADE A SHOW OF FINDING THE VERY KEY THAT YOU PLANTED IN KIRIGIRI'S ROOM...
...YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WITHOUT AN ALIBI, NAEGI.


No one else... knows she's lying... and I'm the only one who can call her out on it.

What... should I do?

H-HIM ?!
W-WAS IT YOU, MAN ?!


...Those of us still remaining might spend the rest of our lives in here...
That would be the end of her investigation...
If Kirigiri did it... and gets executed...?

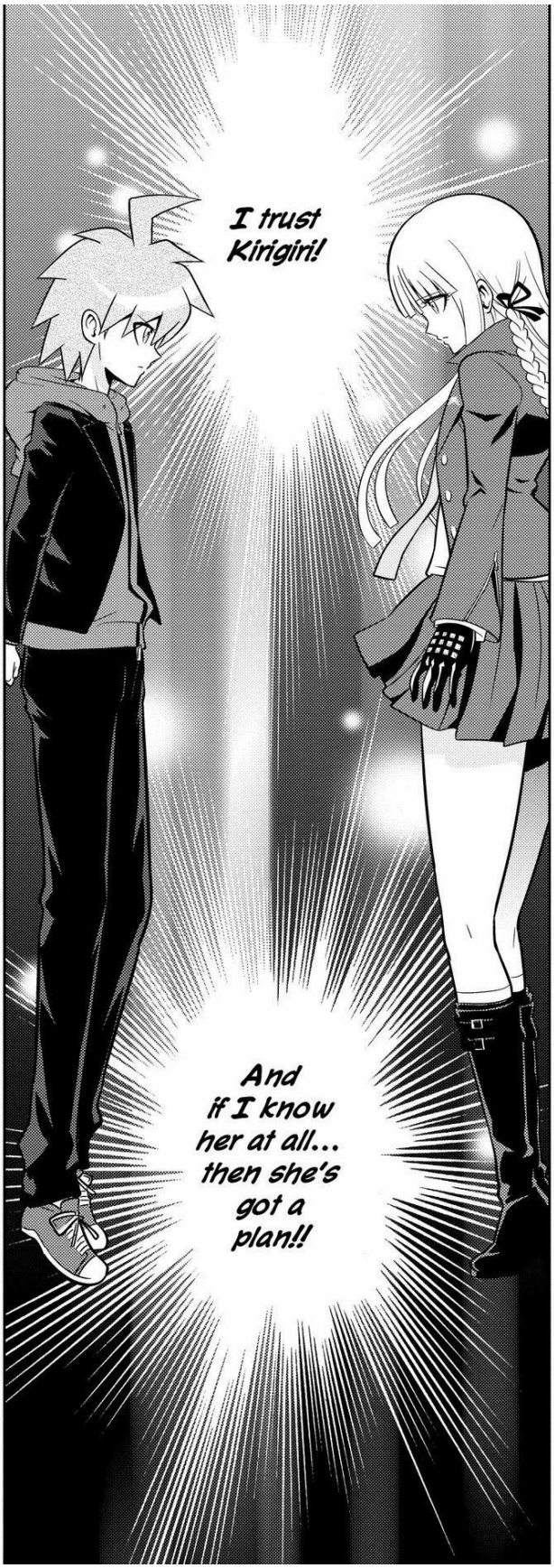

Maybe the murders would come to an end... and we'd live in peace within these school walls...
...Is that where our hope lies...?

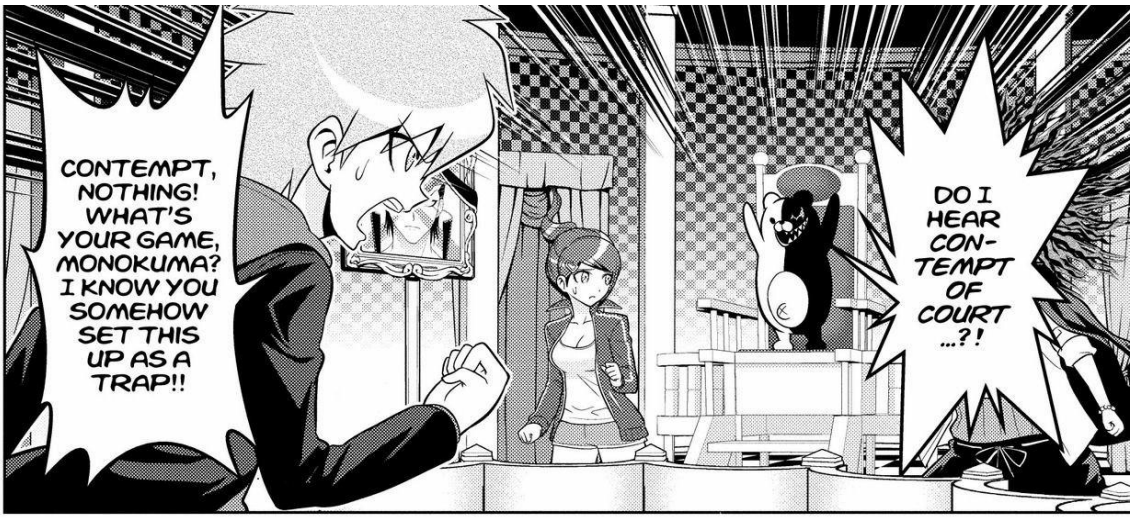
...There isn't any hope to be found in that!!!
No! No, it's not!!

...NAEGI, THIS IS NO TIME FOR DAY-DREAM-ING!
IF YOU HAVE NOTHING TO SAY IN YOUR DEFENSE ...THEN YOU'RE GUILTY !!

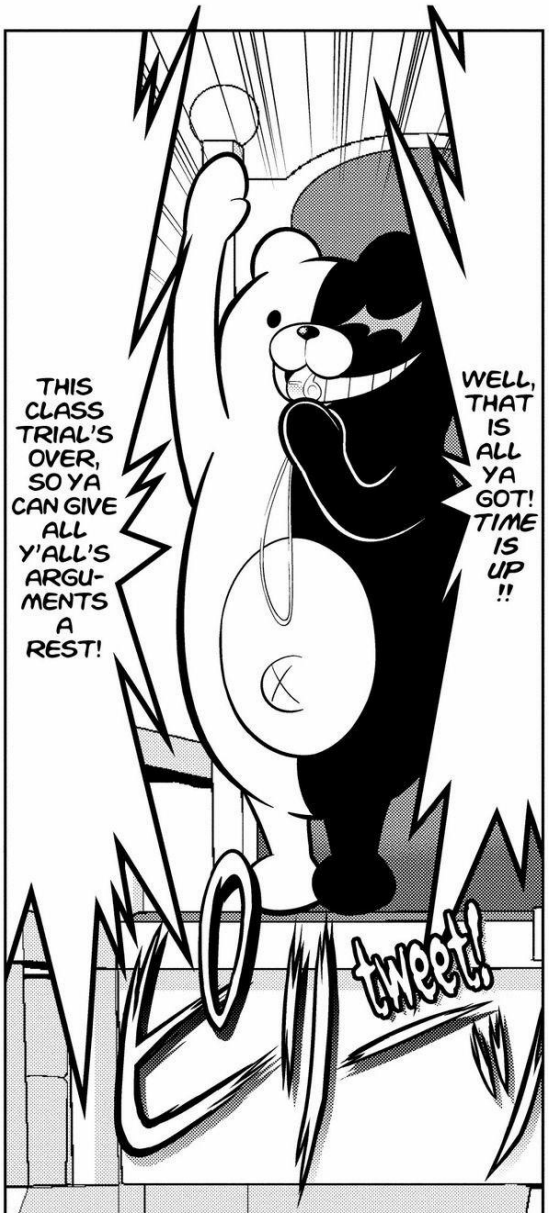
HEY... ISN'T THERE SOME-THING WEIRD ABOUT THIS ENTIRE TRIAL...?
...HUH ?

WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IKUSABA, AND NOW SUD-DENLY WE'VE GOT HER CORPSE !!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?! THERE'S MORE TO THIS CASE THAN YOU'RE TELLING US!!!

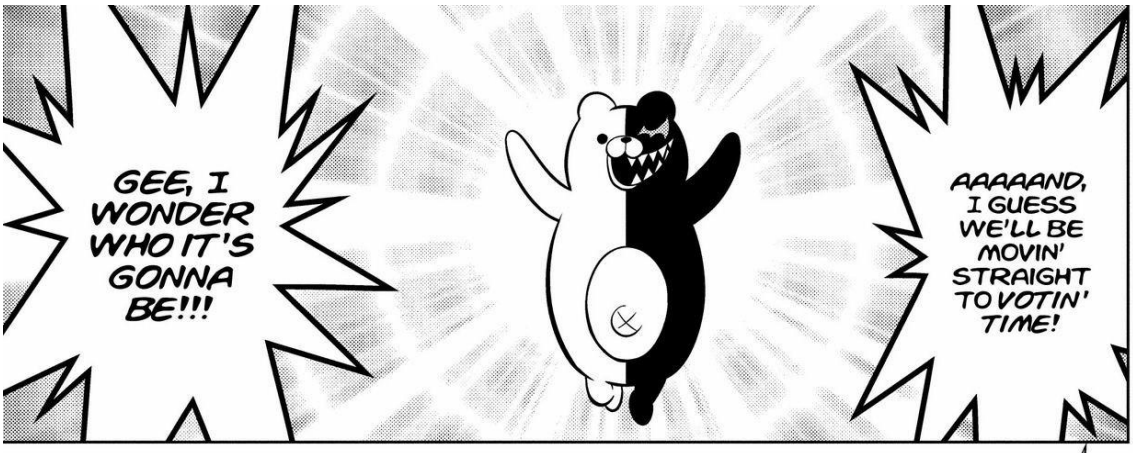

I trust Kirigiri!
And if I know her at all... then she's got a plan!!

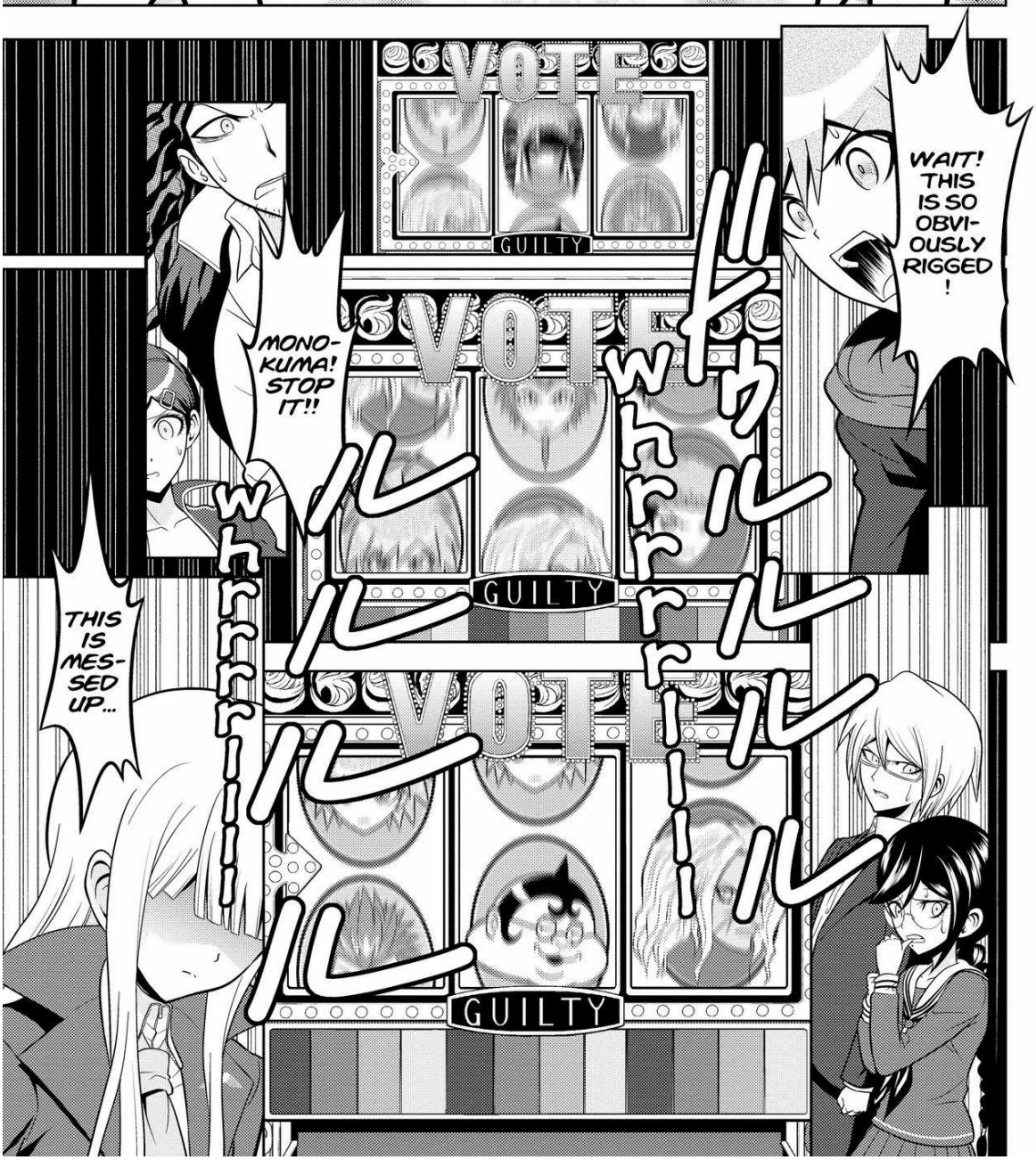

CONTEMPT, NOTHING! WHAT'S YOUR GAME, MONOKUMA? I KNOW YOU SOMEHOW SET THIS UP AS A TRAP!!
DO I HEAR CON-TEMPT OF COURT ...?!

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN... "TIME'S UP" ?!
THIS NEVER HAP-PEN-ED BE-FORE ...!

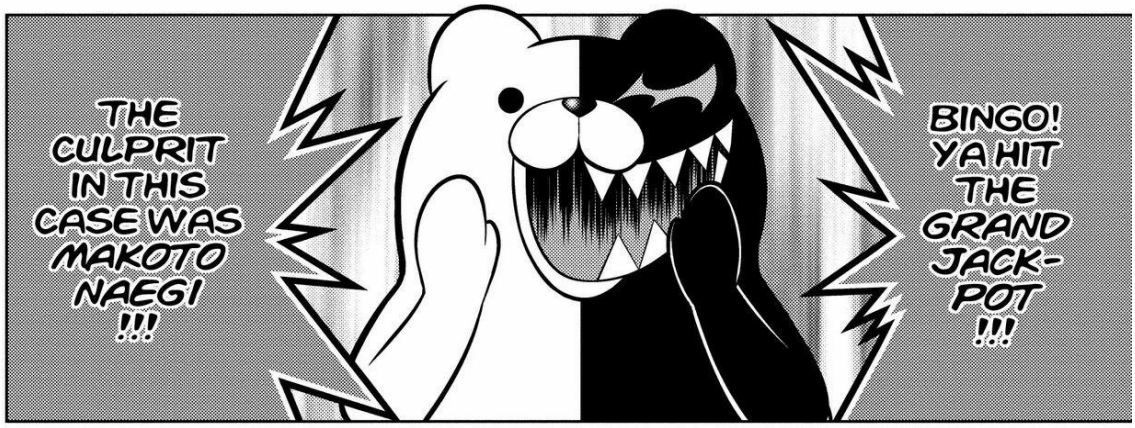

THIS CLASS TRIAL'S OVER, SO YA CAN GIVE ALL Y'ALL'S ARGU-MENTS A REST!
WELL, THAT IS ALL YA GOT! TIME IS UP !!
tweet!

HMPH...
OR MAYBE WHAT I HEAR IS DESPERA-TION. YA KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, NAEGI...A GUILTY DOG BARKS THE LOUDEST.
WHA ...?

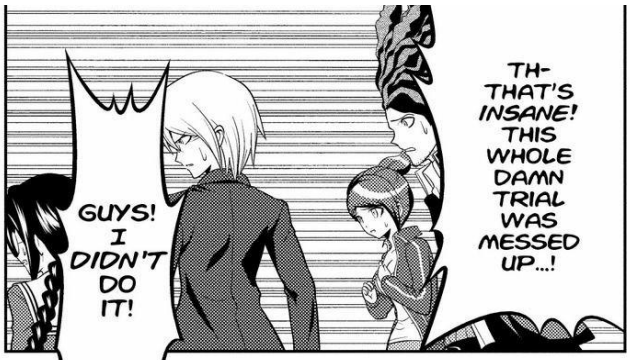



WAIT! THIS IS SO OBVI-OUSLY RIGGED!
MONO-KUMA! STOP IT!!
THIS IS MES-SED UP...
VOTE
GUILTY
VOTE
GUILTY
VOTE
GUILTY
ガルルル

VOTE
ka-
GUILTY
chingg!!


THE CULPRIT IN THIS CASE WAS MAKOTO NAEGI !!!
BINGO! YA HIT THE GRAND JACK-POT !!!

I'M... THE KILLER ...?
B... BINGO ?

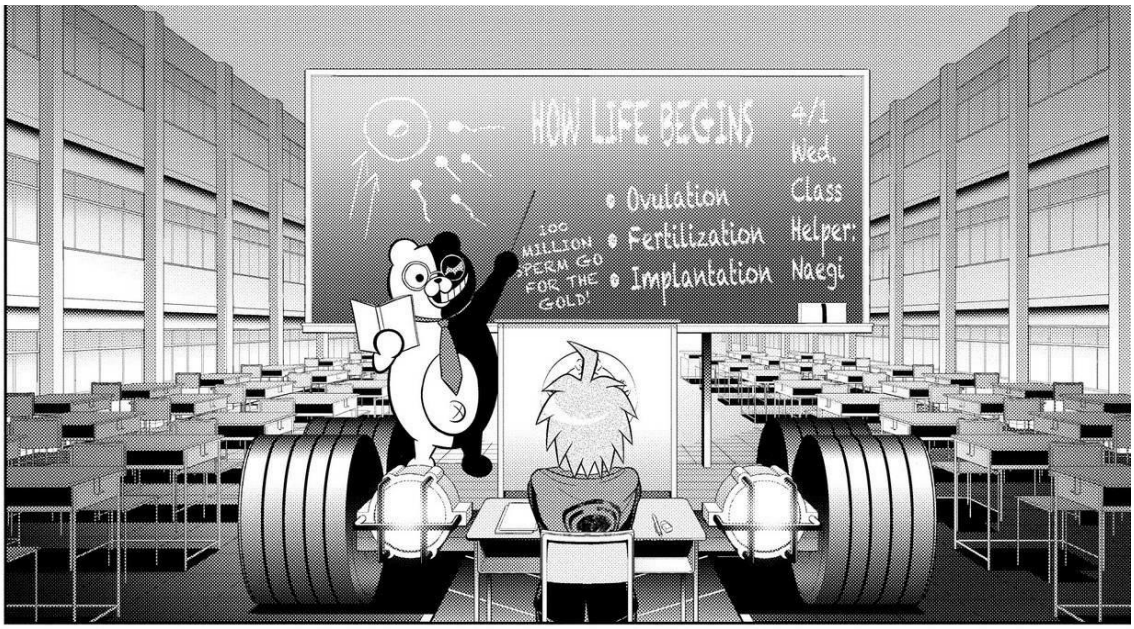

TH-THAT'S INSANE! THIS WHOLE DAMN TRIAL WAS MESSED UP...!
GUYS! I DIDN'T DO IT!

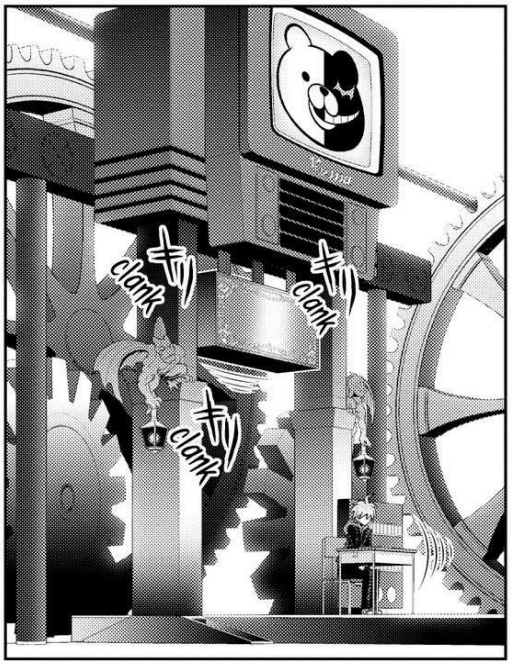
KIRI-GIRI ...!

I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO FORGIVE ME...
...THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.

AND NOW...THE MOST DREADED PUNISHMENT...
...A HIGHSCHOOL STUDENT CAN ENDURE!!!

NOIT
OPEN
roll
roll
roll
ppuu


HOW LIFE BEGINS
4/1
Wed.
Class
Helper:
Naegi
• Ovulation
• Fertilization
• Implantation
100 MILLION SPERM GO FOR THE GOLD!


キリ clank
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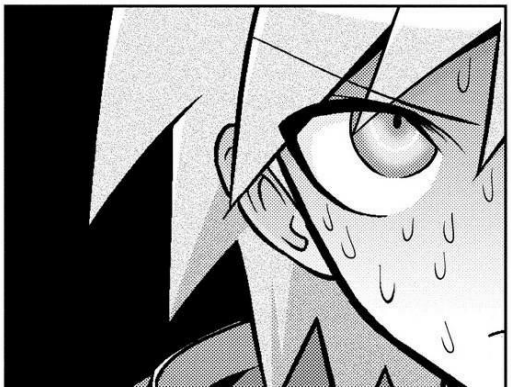

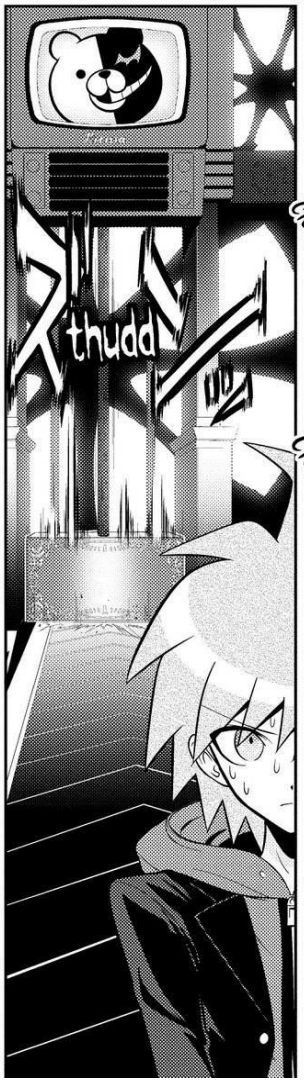
thudd

キリ clank
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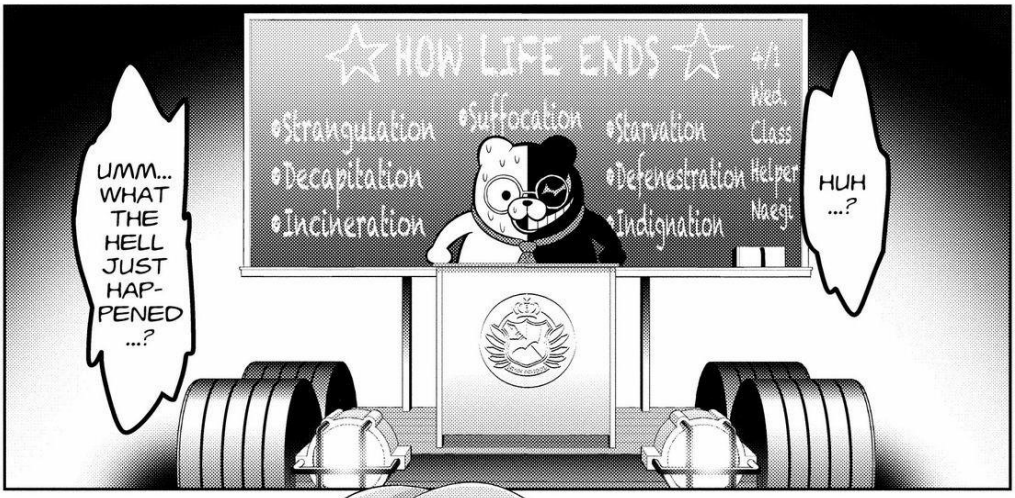
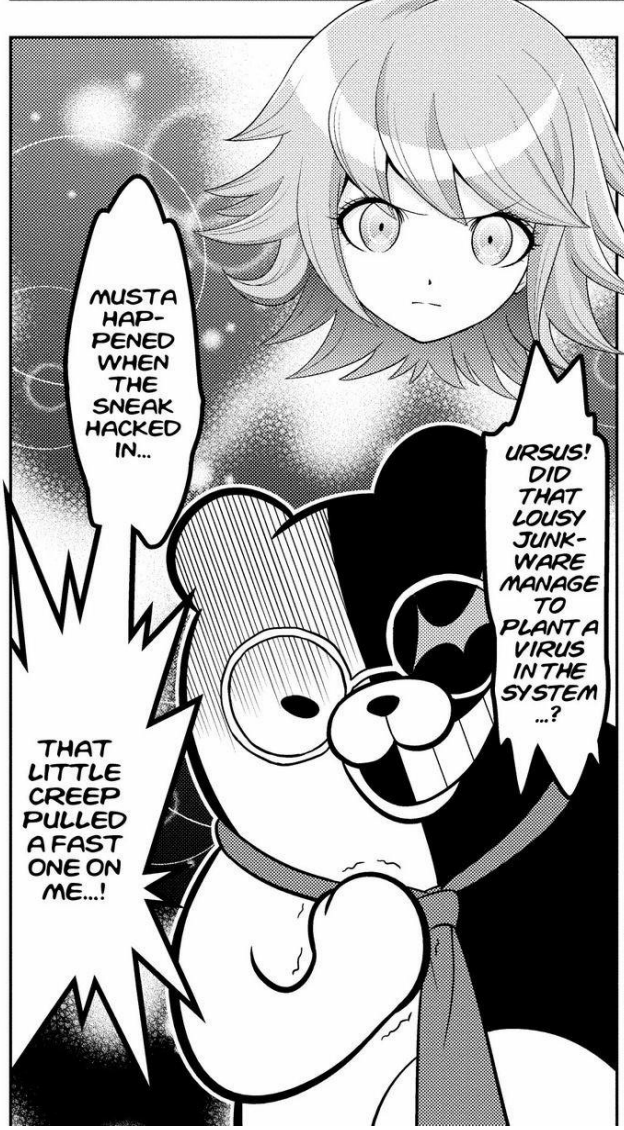
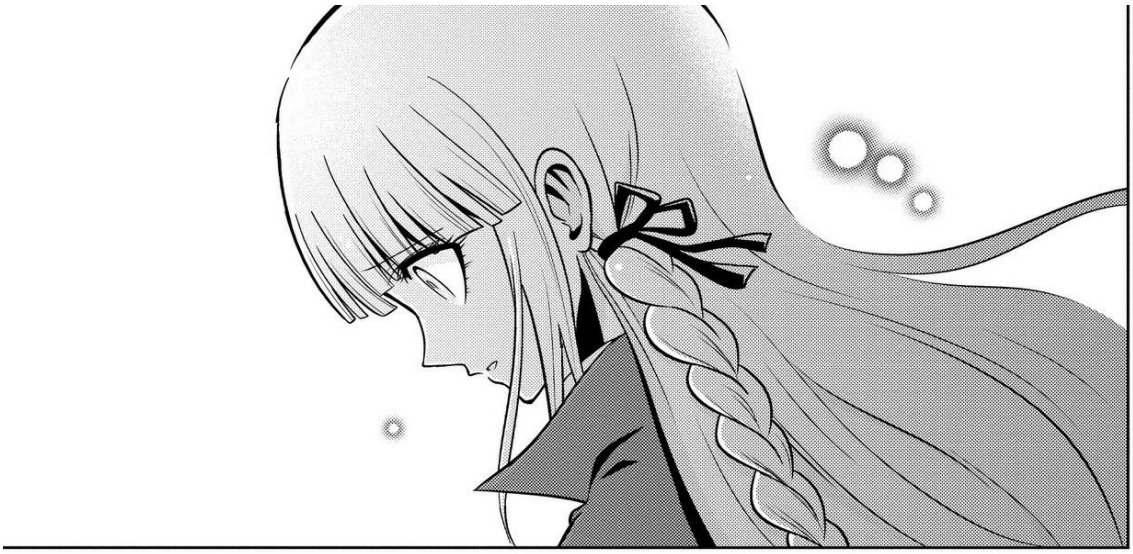
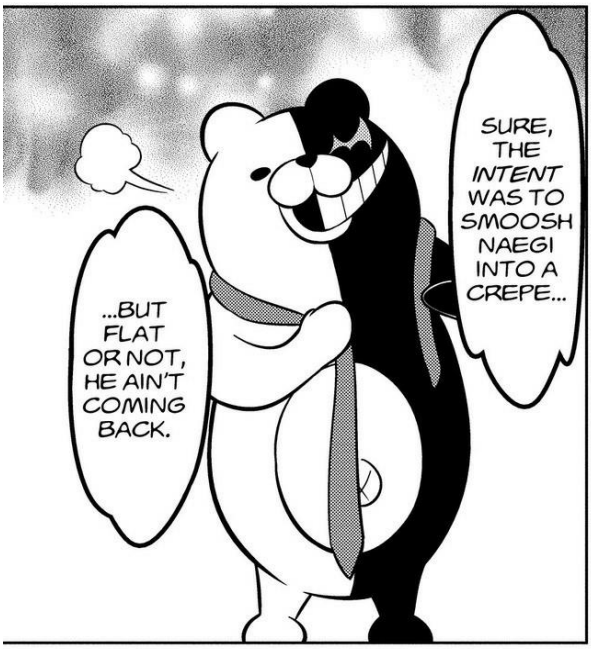
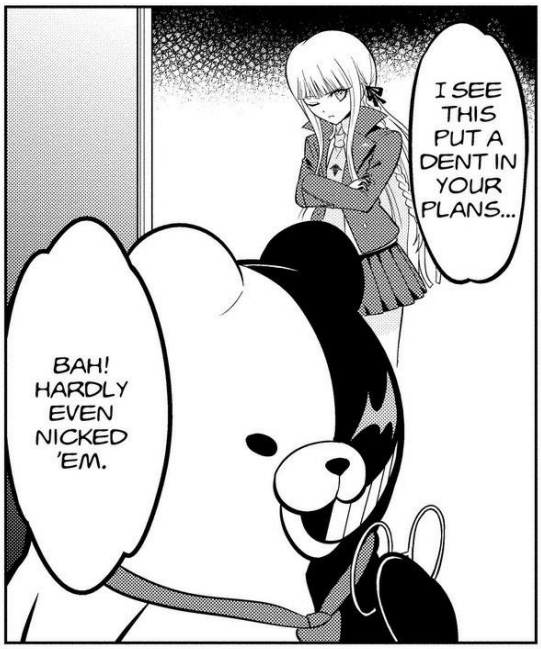

HOW LIFE ENDS
Strangulation
Suffocation
Starvation
Decapitation
Defenestration
Incineration
Indignation
4/1
Wed.
Class
Helper
Naegi
UMM... WHAT THE HELL JUST HAP-PENED ...?
HUH ...?

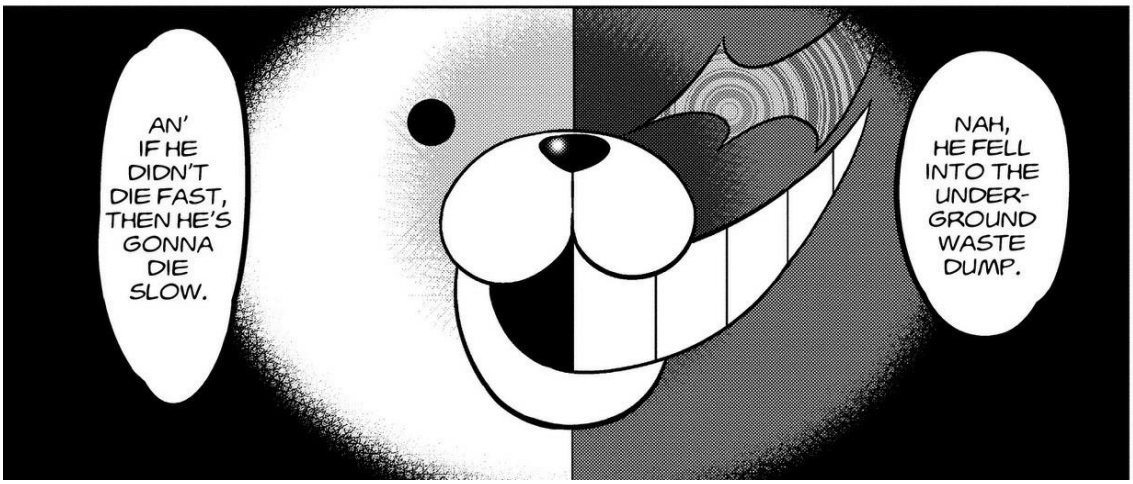

MUSTA HAP-PENED WHEN THE SNEAK HACKED IN...
URSUS! DID THAT LOUSY JUNK-WARE MANAGE TO PLANT A VIRUS IN THE SYSTEM ...?
THAT LITTLE CREEP PULLED A FAST ONE ON ME...!

HEY, WASN'T THAT ...?!
Y-YEAH... IT HAD TO BE!
ALTER EGO!




SURE, THE *INTENT* WAS TO SMOOSH NAEGI INTO A CREPE...
...BUT FLAT OR NOT, HE AIN'T COMING BACK.


I SEE THIS PUT A DENT IN YOUR PLANS...
BAH! HARDLY EVEN NICKED 'EM.


AN' IF HE DIDN'T DIE FAST, THEN HE'S GONNA DIE SLOW.
NAH, HE FELL INTO THE UNDER-GROUND WASTE DUMP.

#14 END

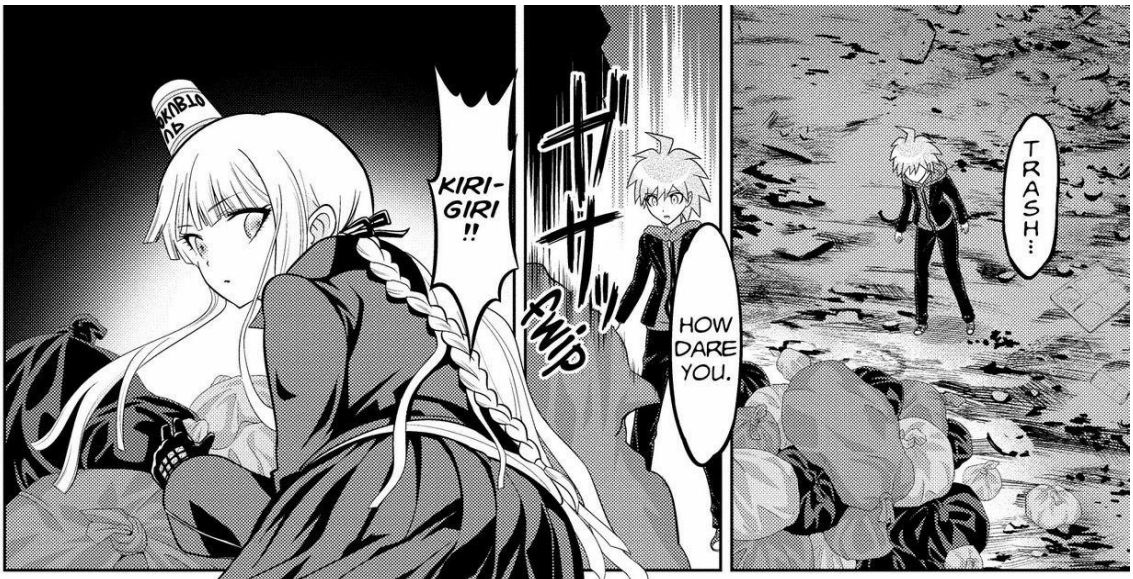
DANGANRONPA
A SCHOOL OF HOPE . . . WITH STUDENTS OF DESPAIR!
THE ANIMATION

DANGANRONPA
A SCHOOL OF HOPE . . . WITH STUDENTS OF DESPAIR!
THE ANIMATION

LOVE THIS NIKU-JAGA, MA'AM.
MEAT AN' POTA-TOES. THOUGH MOSTLY POTA-TOES.
...I HEARD A STORY ONCE THAT NIKUJAGA WAS IN-VENTED FROM A FAILED ATTEMPT AT BEEF STEW!
SOUNDS KINDA IFFY, IF YA ASK ME...THOUGH I GUESS IT COULDA HAPPENED IF THE CHEF USED SOY SAUCE INSTEAD OF WINE.
くまのみくま
BUT YA SEE...
...THE STORY STILL SHOWS HOW YA LEARN NEW THINGS... BY MAKIN' MIS-TAKES.
WHEN YA COME RIGHT DOWN TO IT...
...EVERY-THING IS BUILT ON HAVIN' GOT THE LAST THING WRONG...
BUT THE KIDS THESE DAYS ARE OB-SESSED WITH SUCCESS. NO ONE REMEM-BERS THE VALUE OF FAILURE...
...OR OF DE-SPAIR...
WOULD YOU MIND LEAVING NOW...?

#15
[THE REASON ULTIMATE BAD LUCK ATTRACTED THE ULTIMATE KILLER, THE ULTIMATE EXECUTION, AND ULTIMATE DESPAIR I]

...
...I'M... ALIVE ...?
HOW LONG WAS I OUT ...?
After Ego saved me...
...even now, he doesn't want me to give up.
A LOCK ...
...BUT STILL, I'LL FIND A WAY OUT!
EH ...?
thud!
whump!


TRASH...
HOW DARE YOU.
ザッ
Swip
KIRI-GIRI!!

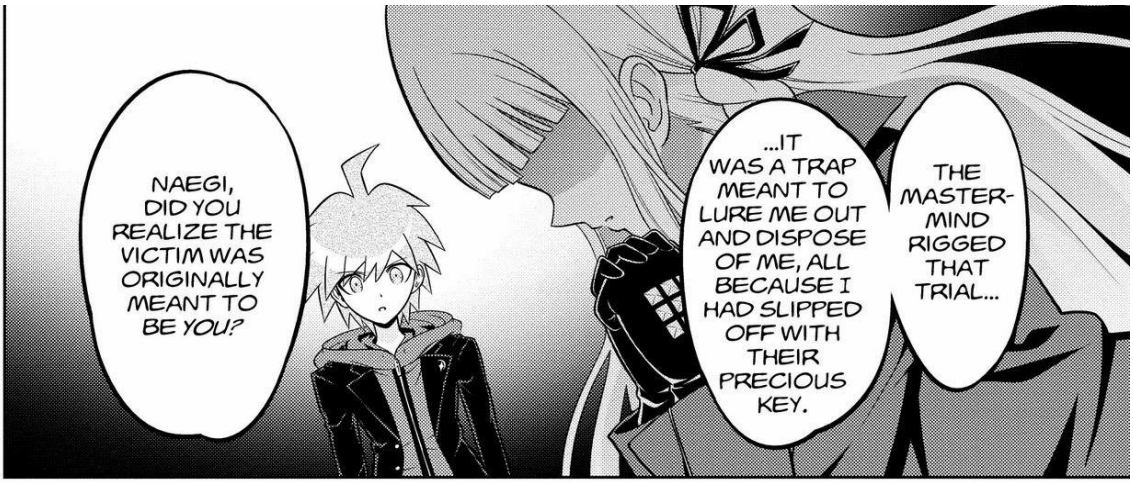
I SEE YOU LOOK CHIP-PER...
BUT WHY...?
ISN'T IT OBVI-OUS...?
I'VE COME TO SAVE YOU.
KIRI-GIRI...

パコーン
fling
...YOU HAVE CUP RAMEN ON YOUR HEAD.

NO WAY WILL I GIVE UP.
OPTIMISM IS THE ONE AND ONLY THING I'VE GOT GOING FOR ME.
YOU EVEN GOT ME SOME FOOD ...
SO YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP...?
NOW I FEEL OKAY!

NAEGI... I DON'T SEE ANY CAM-ERAS HERE.
...I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU EVERY-THING.

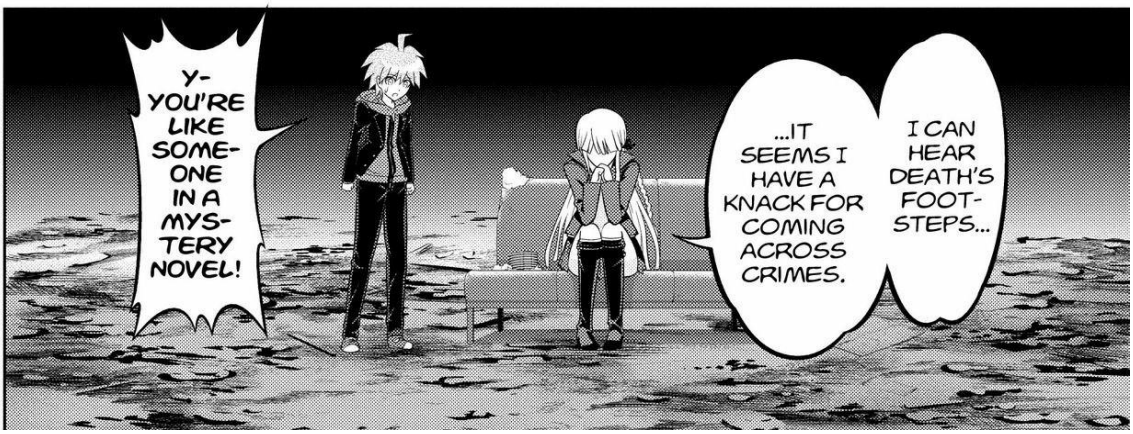
NAEGI, I SACRIFICED YOU TO REACH MY GOALS...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, KIRI-GIRI! THE MAS-TER-MIND...


NAEGI, DID YOU REALIZE THE VICTIM WAS ORIGINALLY MEANT TO BE YOU?
...IT WAS A TRAP MEANT TO LURE ME OUT AND DISPOSE OF ME, ALL BECAUSE I HAD SLIPPED OFF WITH THEIR PRECIOUS KEY.
THE MASTER-MIND RIGGED THAT TRIAL...

...AND THE CULPRIT RAN...

BUT I SAW IT ABOUT TO HAPPEN ...

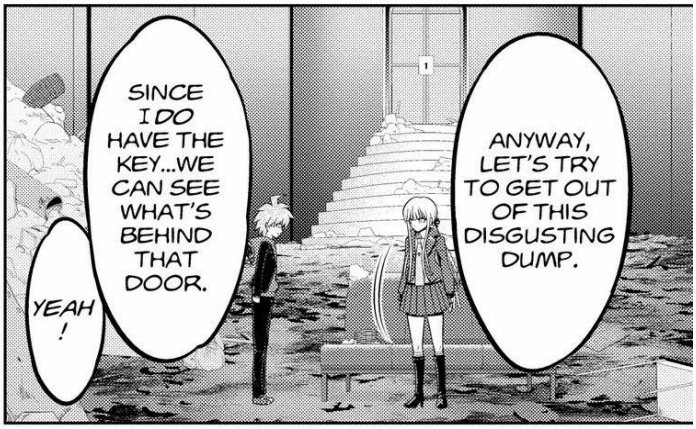
That night...!


Y-YOU'RE LIKE SOME-ONE IN A MYS-TERY NOVEL!
...IT SEEMS I HAVE A KNACK FOR COMING ACROSS CRIMES.
I CAN HEAR DEATH'S FOOT-STEPS...

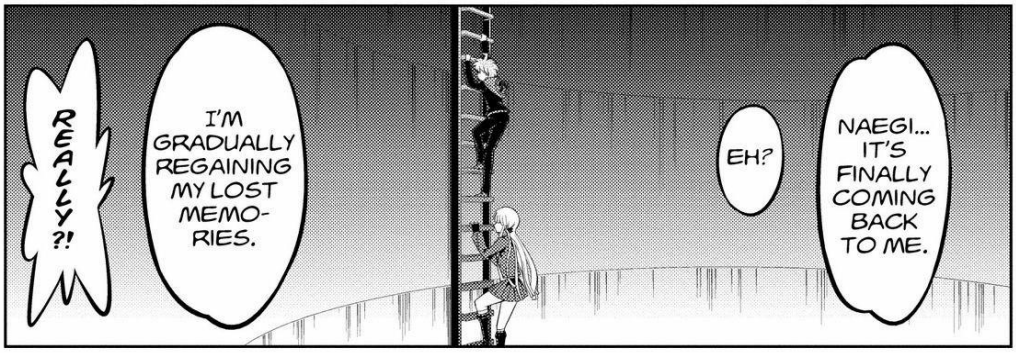
UPON FAILING TO KILL YOU, THE MASTERMIND DECIDED TO USE ANOTHER BODY...
...TO CREATE THAT CRIME SCENE.
AND I FELL RIGHT INTO THEIR TRAP, BUT YOU SAVED ME...
...NOT LIKE THAT'S ANY-THING NEW...
EVEN THOUGH I THREW YOU TO THE SHARKS, YOU WERE STILL THERE FOR ME...
...YOU'RE ALWAYS WILLING TO LEND A HAND WHENEVER I NEED ONE.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE AS A TEAM PLAYER...SO I MAY HAVE PUT YOU IN SITUATIONS THAT DIDN'T SIT WELL WITH YOU...
...BUT WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME IF I SAID I TRUSTED YOU?

KI-AN-GGGGGGG
KI-AN-GGGGGGG

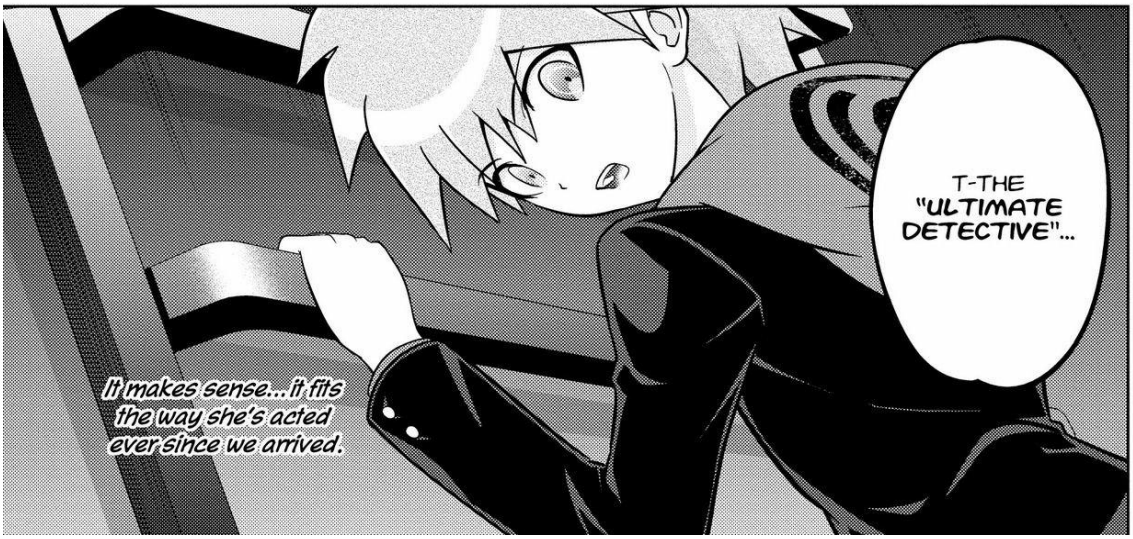
KIRI-GIRI ...!
...
UM...
BUT IF I DO, COULD YOU TELL ME...
...WHY WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU ALL DAY?
THAT'S NOT HAPPEN-ING.
...SORRY FOR GIVING SUCH A HARD TIME.
I'LL BE WAITING IN THE DRESSING ROOM.
NAEG YOU CA PIECE TOGETHER THE REST CAN'T
I'LL BE WAITING IN THE DATA CENTER ON THE FOURTH FLOOR.
...?
slip
Honestly, she did a whole bunch of stuff...that didn't sit well with me.

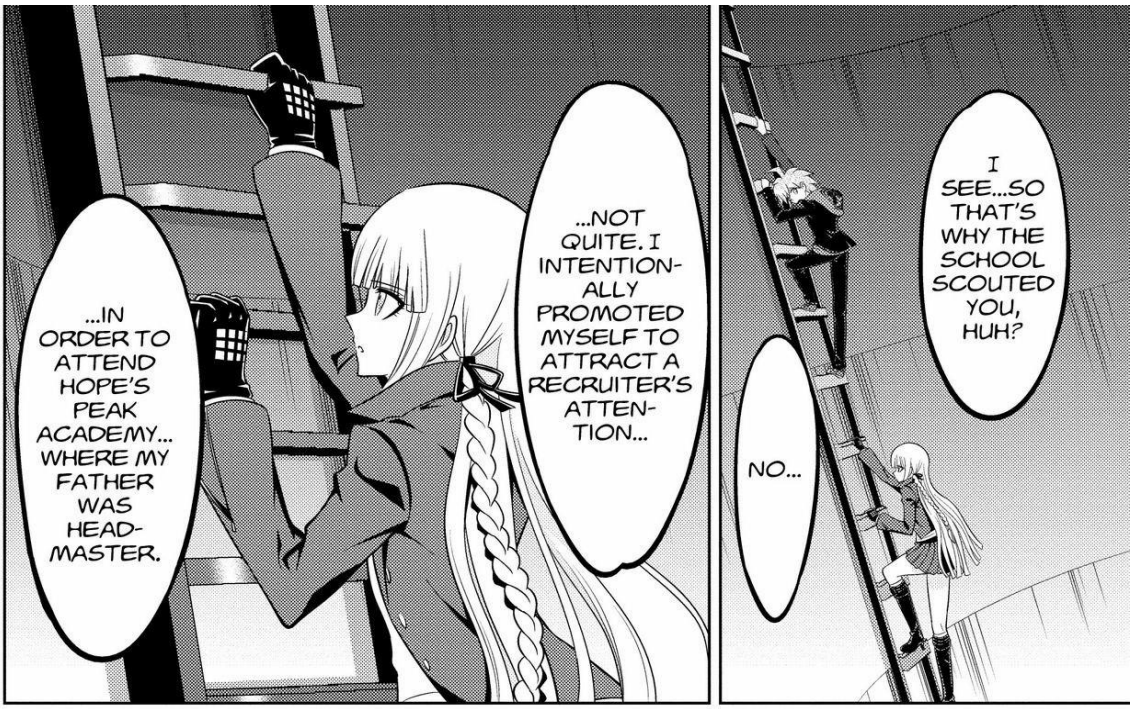

ANYWAY, LET'S TRY TO GET OUT OF THIS DISGUSTING DUMP.
SINCE I DO HAVE THE KEY...WE CAN SEE WHAT'S BEHIND THAT DOOR.
YEAH!

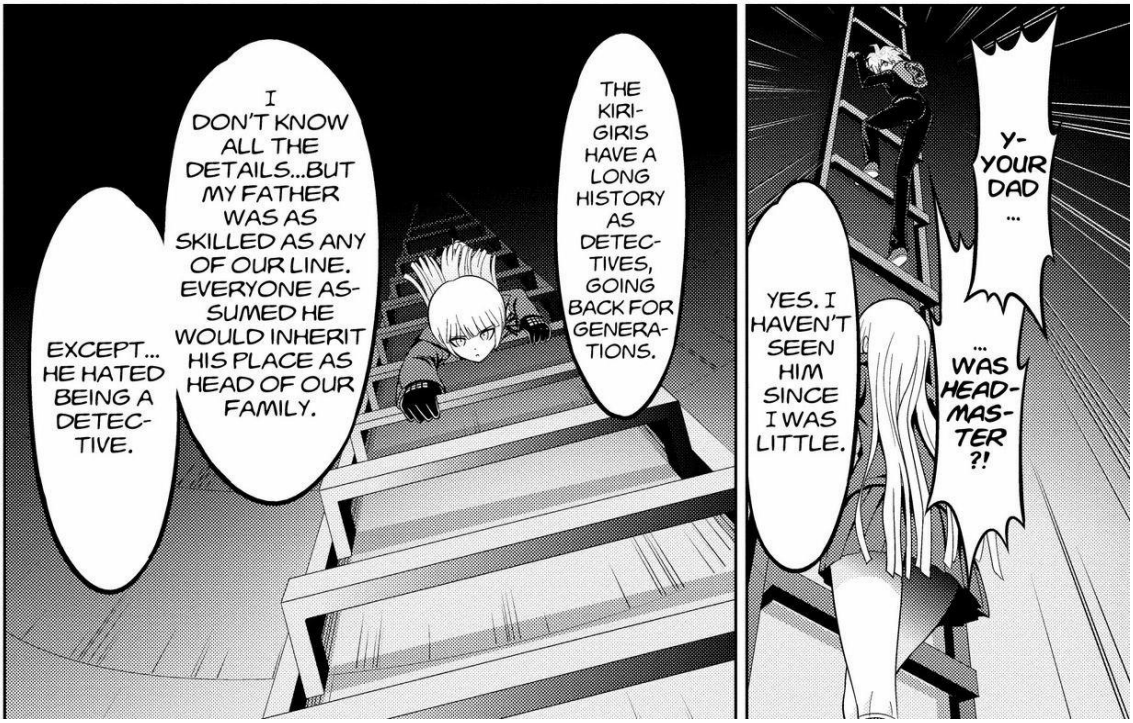
...HM.
SO... GO UP?
YOU FIRST. OR I'LL GO FIRST SO YOU CAN PEEK... BUT I WON'T TRUST YOU ANY-MORE.
I-I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY!


NAEGI... IT'S FINALLY COMING BACK TO ME.
EH?
I'M GRADUALLY REGAINING MY LOST MEMO-RIES.
REALLY?!

AND NOW I KNOW WHAT I WAS ULTI-MATE AT.
I WAS THE "ULTI-MATE DETEC-TIVE."
ULTIMATE DETECTIVE
KYOKO KIRIGIRI


T-THE "ULTIMATE DETECTIVE"...
It makes sense... it fits the way she's acted ever since we arrived.


...IN ORDER TO ATTEND HOPE'S PEAK ACADEMY... WHERE MY FATHER WAS HEAD-MASTER.
...NOT QUITE. I INTENTION-ALLY PROMOTED MYSELF TO ATTRACT A RECRUITER'S ATTEN-TION...
NO...
I SEE...SO THAT'S WHY THE SCHOOL SCOUTED YOU, HUH?

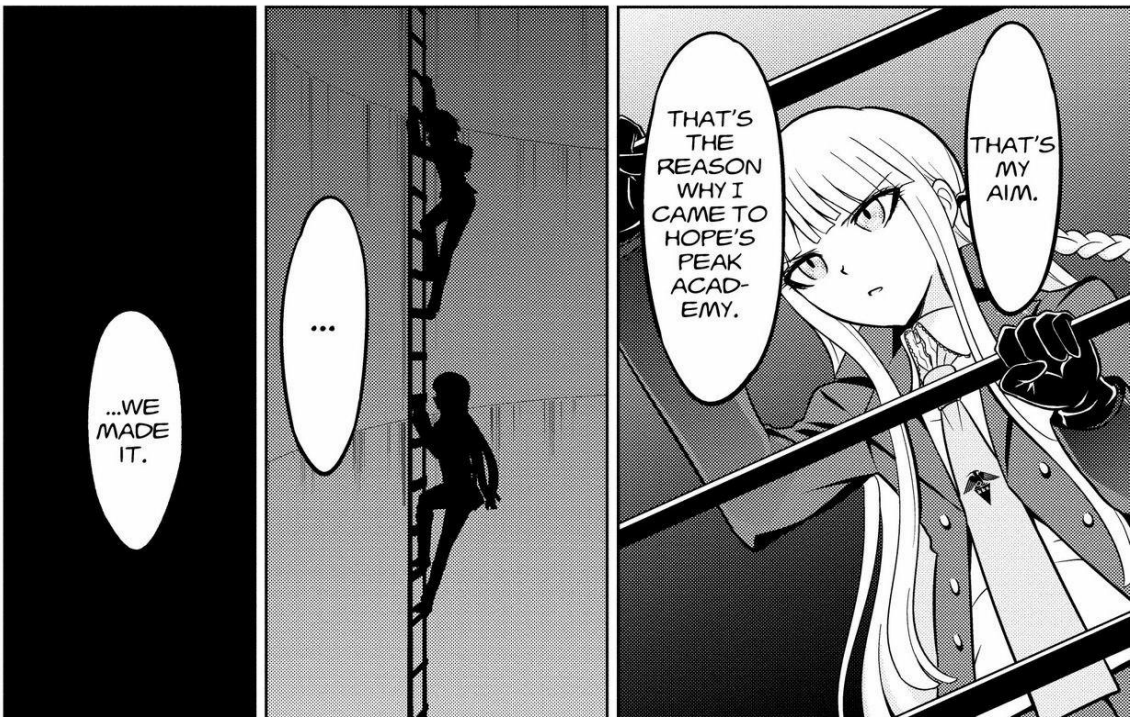

EXCEPT... HE HATED BEING A DETEC-TIVE.
I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS...BUT MY FATHER WAS AS SKILLED AS ANY OF OUR LINE. EVERYONE AS-SUMED HE WOULD INHERIT HIS PLACE AS HEAD OF OUR FAMILY.
THE KIRI-GIRIS HAVE A LONG HISTORY AS DETEC-TIVES, GOING BACK FOR GENERA-TIONS.
YES. I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE I WAS LITTLE.
Y-YOUR DAD ...
...WAS HEAD-MAS-TER ?!

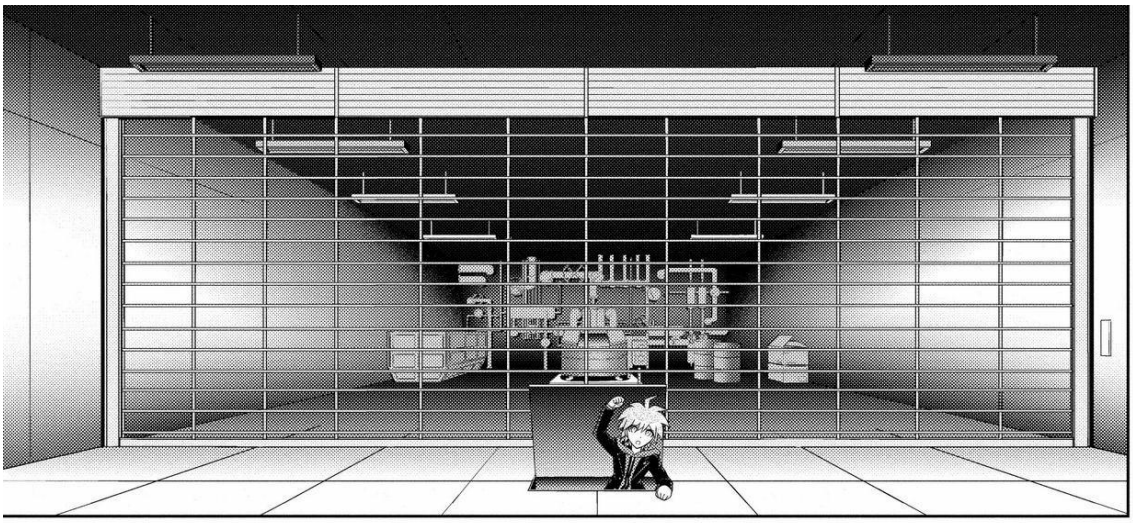
YEARS LATER, I LEARNED HE'D ENDED UP THE HEADMASTER OF HOPE'S PEAK ACADEMY... AND SO I SET MY SIGHTS ON ATTENDING THIS SCHOOL.
...IN-CLUDING ME.
HE USED MY MOTHER'S DEATH AS AN EXCUSE TO LEAVE IT ALL...

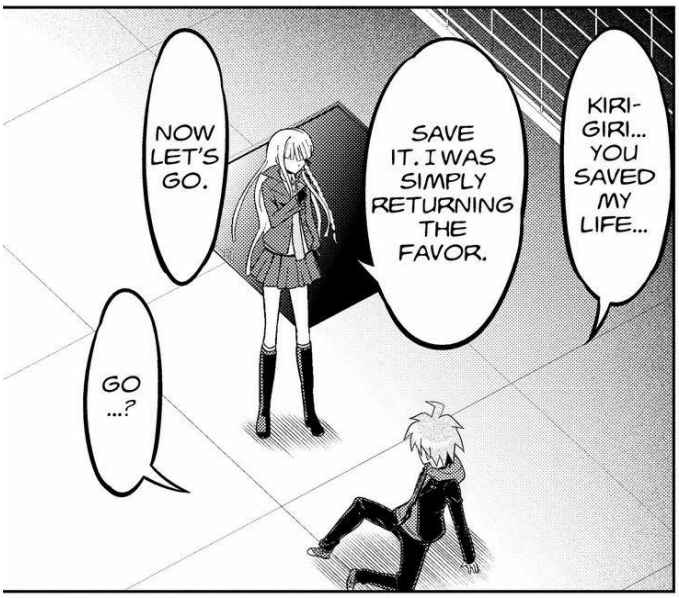
...?
NO.
I BET YOU WERE EXCITED AT THE CHANCE TO SEE YOUR DAD AGAIN...
I'M HERE TO BURY MY PAST...AND EXCISE HIM FROM MY LIFE.
"EXCITED" ISN'T THE WORD. I CAME TO SEVER TIES WITH HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL.

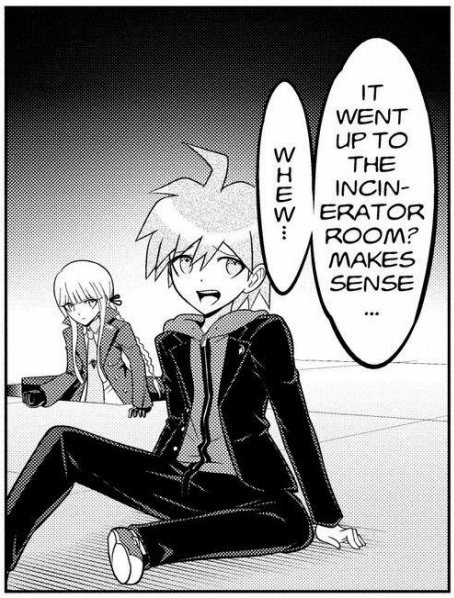
I'VE BEEN SEEN AS "THE KID ABAN-DONED BY HER OWN FATHER" EVER SINCE HE LEFT.
AND I'M SICK AND TIRED OF IT.
JUST BECAUSE WE'RE RELATED DOESN'T MEAN WE SHARE ANY EMO-TIONAL TIES...
...HOW COULD YOU CALL THE TWO OF US "FAMILY" ...?

BUT ...
That just seems so...

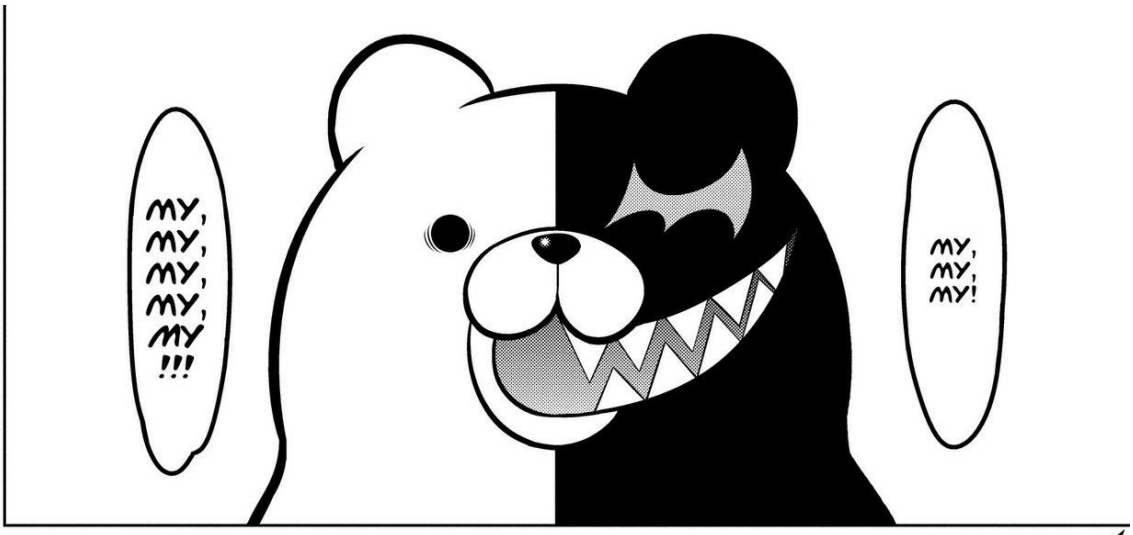

THAT'S MY AIM.
THAT'S THE REASON WHY I CAME TO HOPE'S PEAK ACAD-EMY.
...
...WE MADE IT.



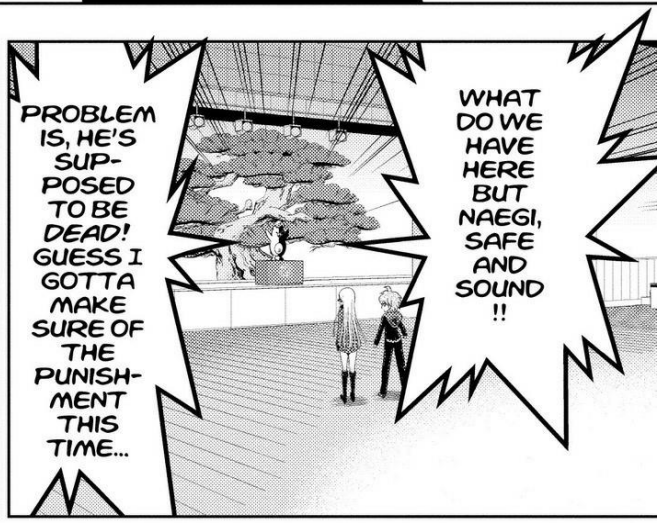

KIRI-GIRI... YOU SAVED MY LIFE...
SAVE IT. I WAS SIMPLY RETURNING THE FAVOR.
NOW LET'S GO.
GO ...?

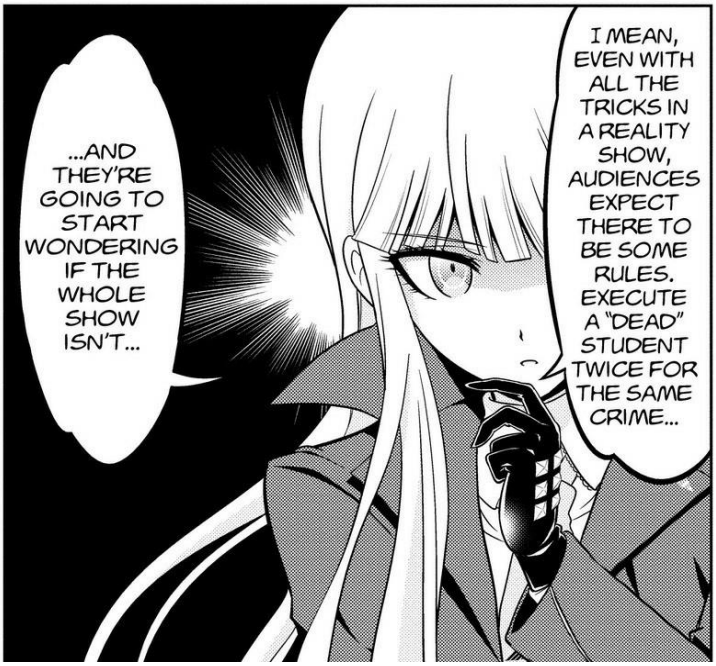

IT WENT UP TO THE INCIN-ERATOR ROOM? MAKES SENSE ...
WHEW...

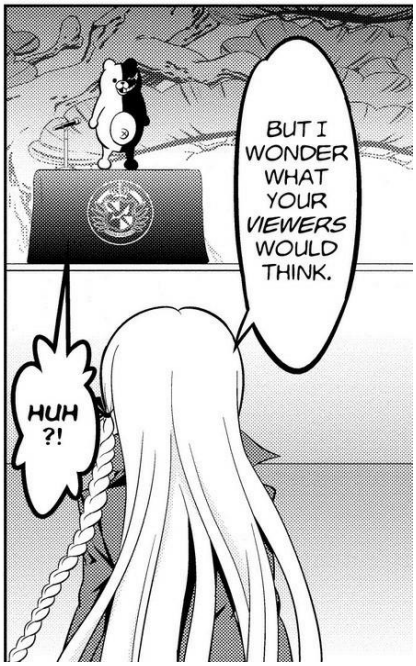
TO CUT A DEAL WITH MONOKUMA.


MY, MY, MY, MY, MY !!!
MY, MY, MY!

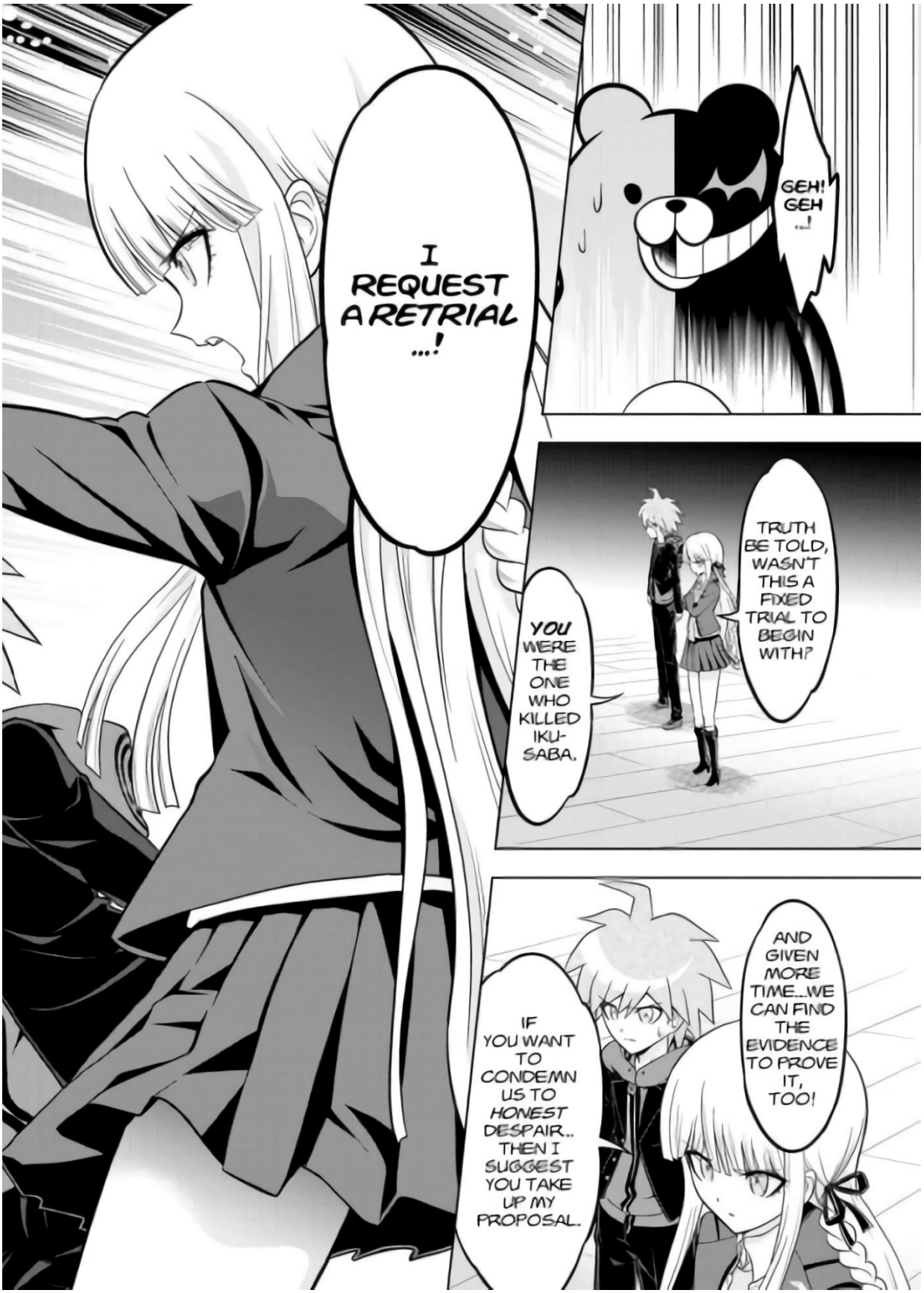
EHHHHHH ?!?
WELL, WHO AM I TO STOP YOU...?

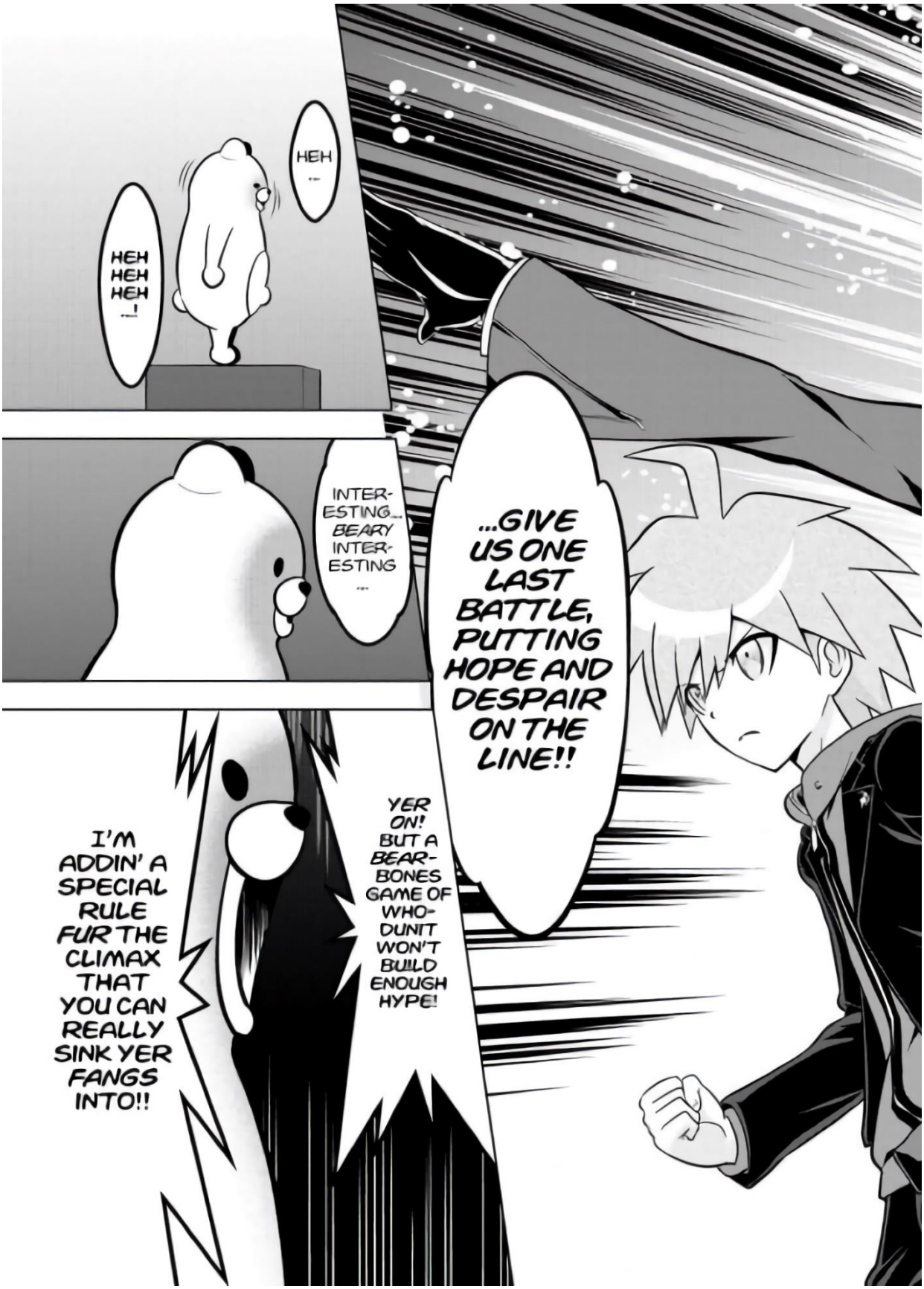

PROBLEM IS, HE'S SUP-POSED TO BE DEAD! GUESS I GOTTA MAKE SURE OF THE PUNISH-MENT THIS TIME...
WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE BUT NAEGI, SAFE AND SOUND !!


...AND THEY'RE GOING TO START WONDERING IF THE WHOLE SHOW ISN'T...
I MEAN, EVEN WITH ALL THE TRICKS IN A REALITY SHOW, AUDIENCES EXPECT THERE TO BE SOME RULES. EXECUTE A "DEAD" STUDENT TWICE FOR THE SAME CRIME...


BUT I WONDER WHAT YOUR VIEWERS WOULD THINK.
HUH ?!

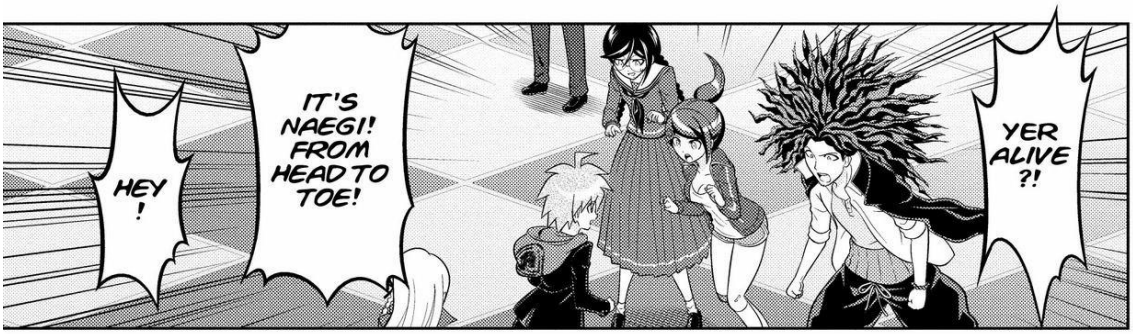
...DESPAIR CANNOT KILL HOPE.
FAKE...
A SET-UP...
A HOAX...
...A PILE OF LIES...
I'LL... I'LL SAY IT WAS...AN ARTISTIC DECISION...
AND WORST OF ALL...
...IF YOU EXECUTE NAEGI WITHOUT JUST CAUSE... PEOPLE WILL START TO THINK...


GEH! GEH ...!
I REQUEST A RETRIAL ...!
TRUTH BE TOLD, WASN'T THIS A FIXED TRIAL TO BEGIN WITH?
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO KILLED IKU-SABA.
AND GIVEN MORE TIME...WE CAN FIND THE EVIDENCE TO PROVE IT, TOO!
IF YOU WANT TO CONDEMN US TO HONEST DESPAIR... THEN I SUGGEST YOU TAKE UP MY PROPOSAL.

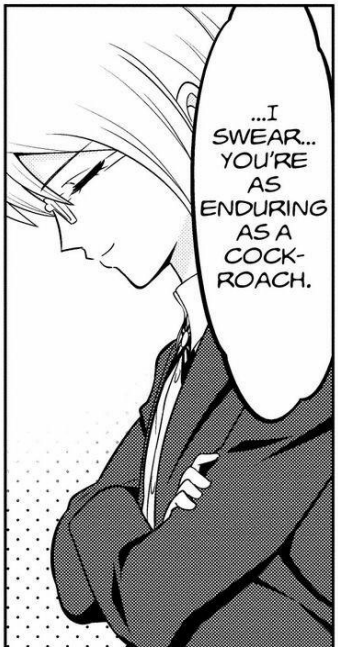

HEH HEH HEH ...!
HEH ...
INTER-ESTING... BEARY INTER-ESTING ...
...GIVE US ONE LAST BATTLE, PUTTING HOPE AND DESPAIR ON THE LINE!!
YER ON! BUT A BEAR-BONES GAME OF WHO-DUNIT WON'T BUILD ENOUGH HYPE!
I'M ADDIN' A SPECIAL RULE FUR THE CLIMAX THAT YOU CAN REALLY SINK YER FANGS INTO!!

...DO THAT, AN' YER HIBERNATION IS OVER... AN' YA CAN ALL LEAVE THIS CAVE!!!
SOLVE ALL OF THE MYSTERIES LYIN' UNDER THIS SCHOOL'S PELT...
...IF WE DON'T, THE WHOLE CLASS GETS EXECUTED.
I RAN OUTTA WORDPLAY, BUT...
U PU PU PUU! I CAN'T WAIT TA SEE HOW YER FACES TWIST IN DESPAIR... WHEN YA LEARN THE WHOLE TRUTH...!
WHICH WILL PREVAIL...? WILL IT BE YER "HOPE" OR MY "DESPAIR" ...?

NAEGI!!


YER ALIVE ?!
IT'S NAEGI! FROM HEAD TO TOE!
HEY !

NAEGS... DUDE... ABOUT WHAT WE DID TO YOU...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, OKAY? WE HAVE A BIG-GER--


...I SWEAR... YOU'RE AS ENDURING AS A COCK-ROACH.

AHEM. CLASS-ROOM ANNOUNCE-MENT! THE SCHOOL LIFE OF MUTUAL KILLIN' WILL NOW ENTER THE "TRUE ANSWER ARC."
TO GIVE YA A FAIR SHOT AT THE TRUTH, I'VE UNLOCKED ALL THE DOORS INSIDE THE ACADEMY!
SEARCH WHEREVER YA LIKE! CRACK THEM MYSTERIES WIDE OPEN!!

ONLY 16 HONEST-TO-GOD HIGH SCHOOL-ERS SET FOOT IN HOPE'S PEAK ACADEMY ALIVE!

BUT HOW MANY WILL MAKE IT OUT ALIVE IN THE END? DON'T IT JUST MAKE YER HEARTS RACE WITH EXCITE-MENT ?!?

U PU PU PUUU... SEE Y'ALL AT THE CLASS TRIAL ...

ガチャン ka-chakk

ガラ rattle

ガラ rattle

ガラ rattle

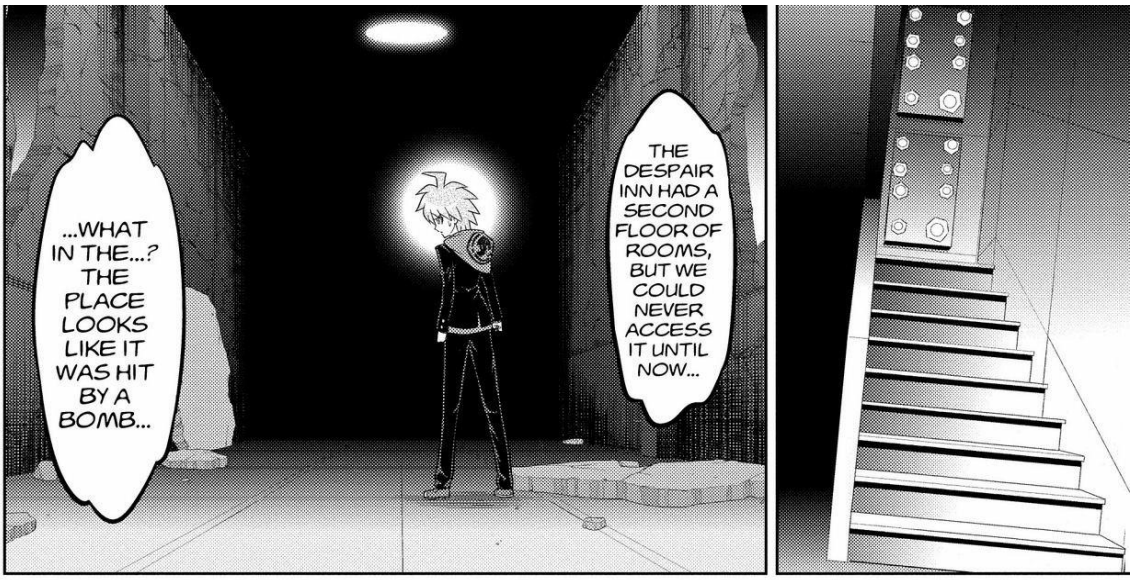
RAW

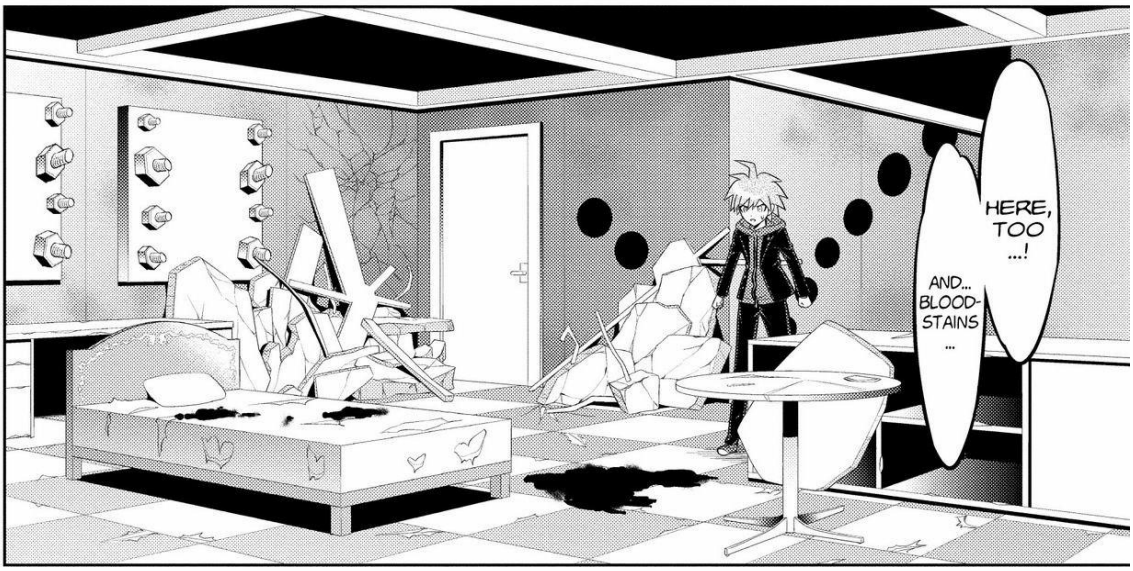
W-WHAT ...?

UM, YOU SEE ...

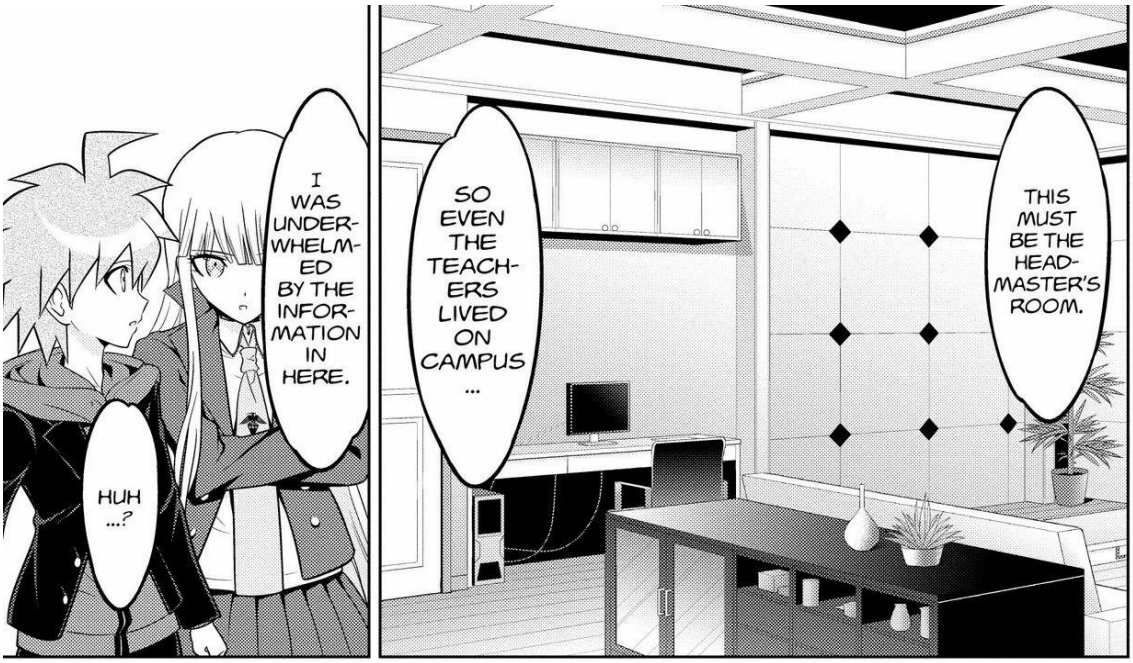
YOU DE-MANDED A RETRIAL ...?
AIN'T WE BITIN' OFF WAY MORE THAN WE CAN CHEW WITH THAT SCHOOL MYSTERY PART...?!
SO IT'S THE FINAL CON-FRON-TATION. DON'T YOU FIND IT RATHER EXCIT-ING...?
BUT WE DON'T KNOW MUCH OF ANYTHING ABOUT THE SCHOOL'S MYS-TERIES ...!
IT WON'T BE EASY, BUT I KNOW WE'LL WIN IF WE WORK TO-GETH-ER !!
SHALL WE GET TO WORK ?
THE MASTER-MIND IS AIMING TO THROW US INTO DESPAIR! WE CAN'T GIVE UP!!!
UM...
THE ONLY WAY WE'LL SURVIVE NOW IS BY UNCOVERING THEM AT LAST.
I-I WAS PERFECTLY HAPPY LIVING HERE WITH MASTER BYAKUYA ...!!

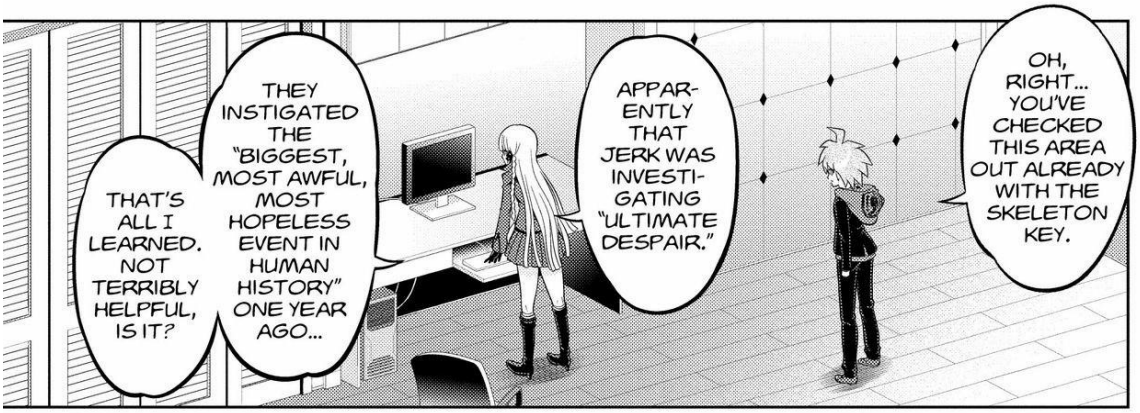
...Let's start the investiga-tion!!

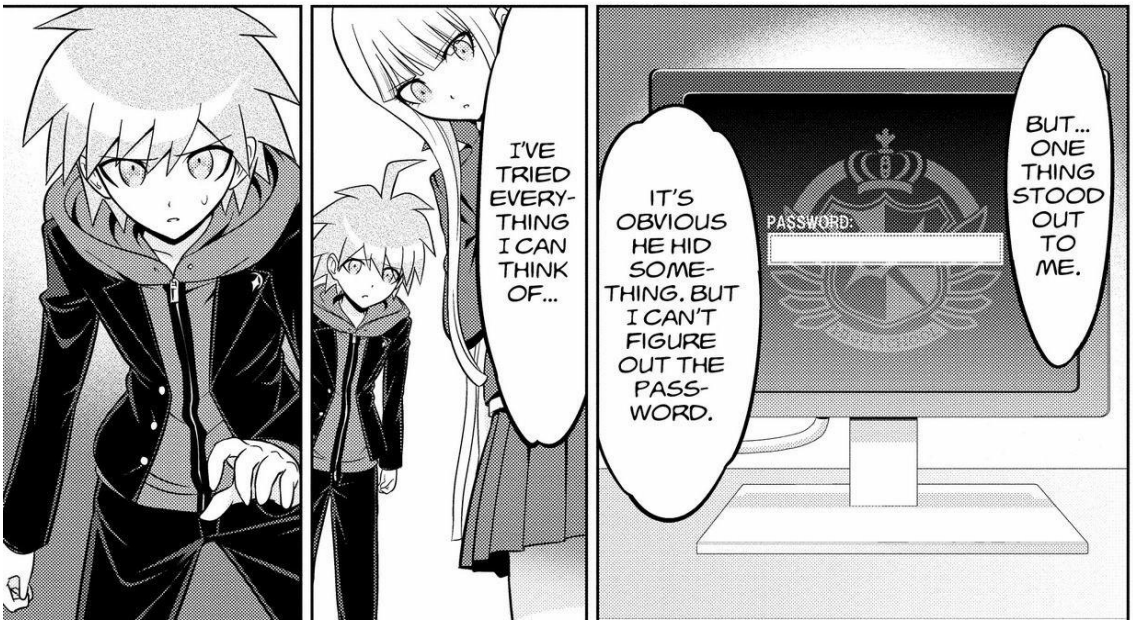

...WHAT IN THE...? THE PLACE LOOKS LIKE IT WAS HIT BY A BOMB...
THE DESPAIR INN HAD A SECOND FLOOR OF ROOMS, BUT WE COULD NEVER ACCESS IT UNTIL NOW...


HERE, TOO ...!
AND... BLOOD-STAINS ...

AN EYE FOR AN EYE
IT'S JUST LIKE...THE CLASS-ROOM WITH THE MASS MURDER ...!


I WAS UNDERWHELMED BY THE INFORMATION IN HERE.
HUH ...?
SO EVEN THE TEACHERS LIVED ON CAMPUS ...
THIS MUST BE THE HEADMASTER'S ROOM.


THAT'S ALL I LEARNED. NOT TERRIBLY HELPFUL, IS IT?
THEY INSTIGATED THE "BIGGEST, MOST AWFUL, MOST HOPELESS EVENT IN HUMAN HISTORY" ONE YEAR AGO...
APPARENTLY THAT JERK WAS INVESTIGATING "ULTIMATE DESPAIR."
OH, RIGHT... YOU'VE CHECKED THIS AREA OUT ALREADY WITH THE SKELETON KEY.


I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING I CAN THINK OF...
IT'S OBVIOUS HE HID SOMETHING. BUT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT THE PASSWORD.
PASSWORD:
BUT... ONE THING STOOD OUT TO ME.

PASSWORD:

KYOKO

カタ
takka...

...WHY?

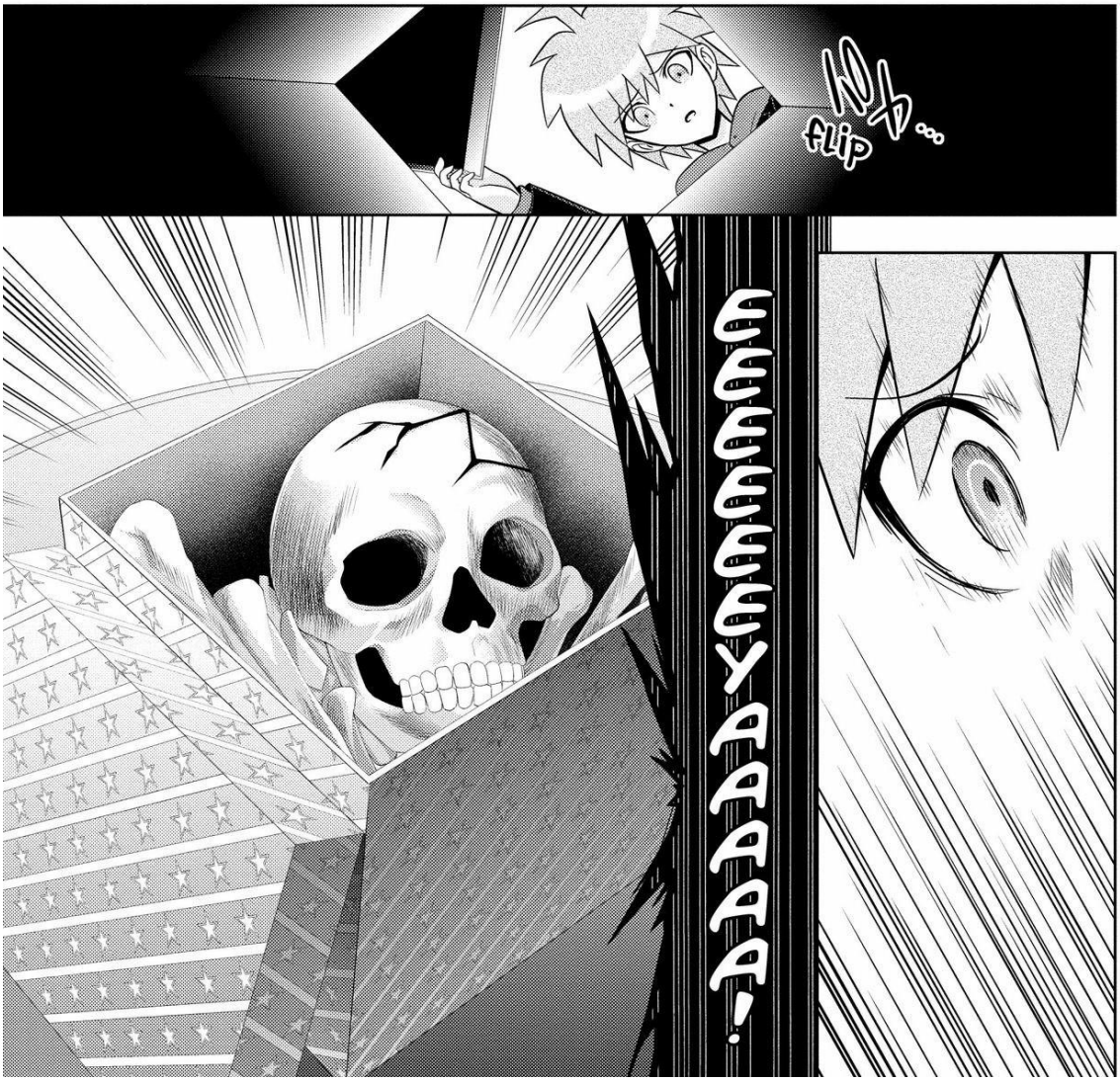
YOUR NAME WAS THE PASSWORD...

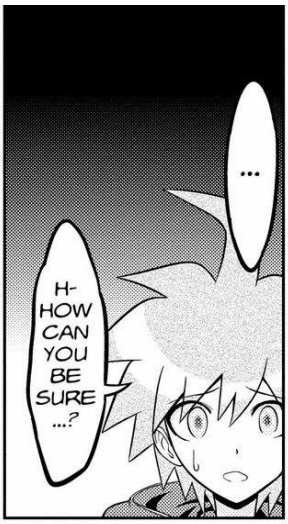
A HIDDEN DOOR!

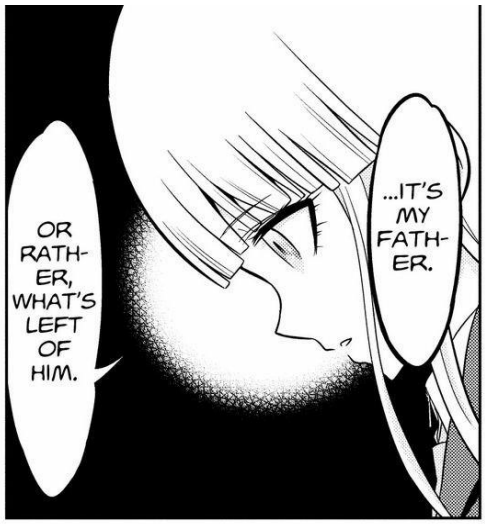
ガコン...
chakk

I RECKON IT'S NOTHING DANGER-OUS, BUT YOU'LL BE IN FOR A SUR-PRISE.
IF I'M RIGHT, IT WON'T BE A PLEASANT SIGHT. JUST DON'T SCREAM, OKAY...?

ANY IDEA WHAT'S UP WITH THE BOX...? IT SCREAMS SUSPI-CIOUS...
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT WHAT'S INSIDE... BUT IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN IG-NORE IT...

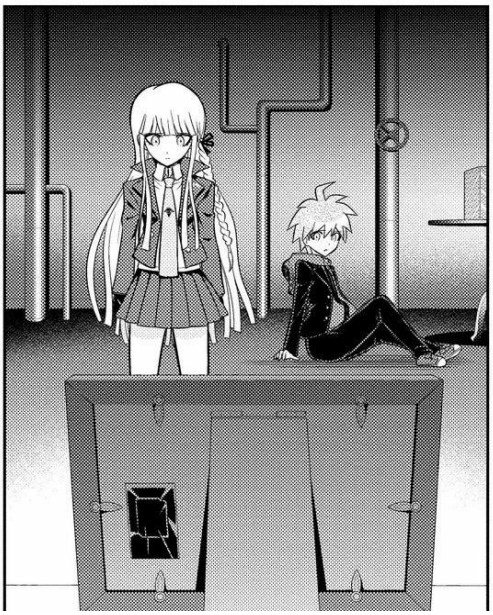

ハカ...
flip
EEEEEEEEYAAAAA!


H-HOW CAN YOU BE SURE ...?
...


OR RATH-ER, WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM.
...IT'S MY FATH-ER.

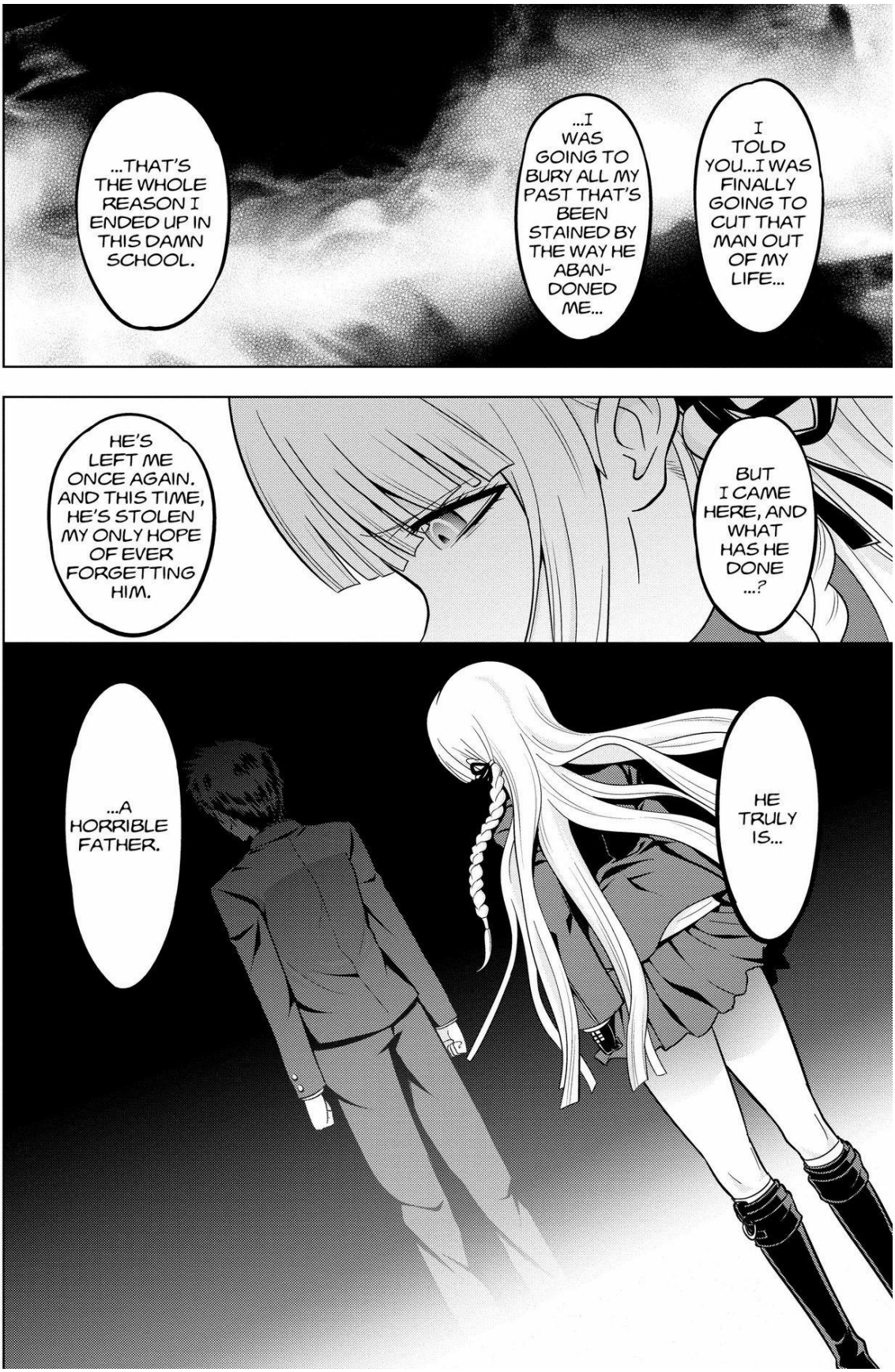
I ASKED YOU NOT TO SCREAM.
B-B-BUT ...!

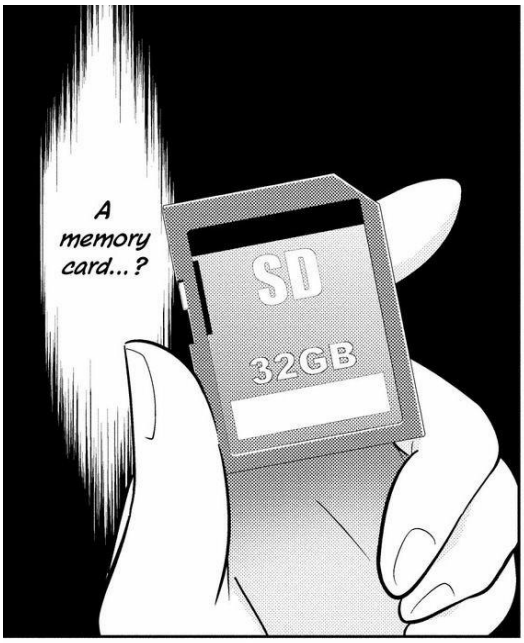
SO THAT MEANS THE HEAD-MASTER WASN'T THE MASTER-MIND ...?



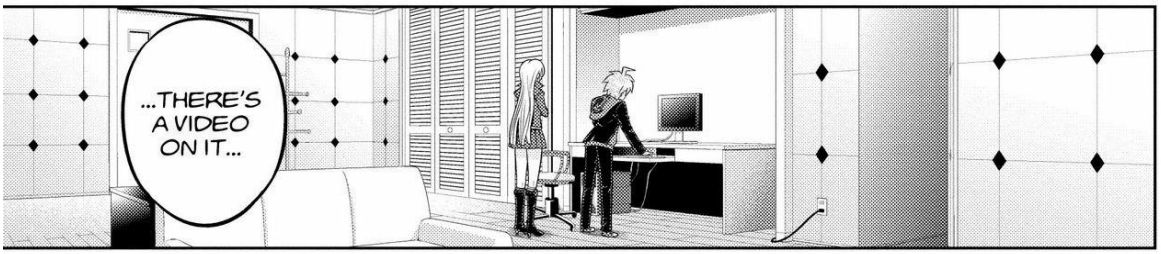
IT'S THE ONLY LOGICAL POSSIBILITY GIVEN WHAT WE KNOW.
THE HEAD-MASTER IS HERE IN THIS SCHOOL... HOW-EVER...
Hope's Peak Academy himself led the proj-ect...
...He was a man in his late thirties. It's probable that he is still somewhere in sch
ONLY THE 16 OF US ENTERED THE SCHOOL WHILE STILL "ALIVE"...
...IN THAT CASE, THE IMPLICATION MIGHT BE THAT HE WAS "DEAD"... SOME-WHERE IN THE SCHOOL...
ONLY 16 HONEST-TO-GOD HIGH SCHOOL-ERS SET FOOT IN HOPE'S PEAK ACADEMY ALIVE!

ISN'T THIS... YOU ?!
I KNEW IT...HE DID CARE ABOUT YOU...
...HE USED YOUR NAME FOR THE PASSWORD... AND HELD ON TO THIS PICTURE ALL THESE YEARS...
I'M SURE... THE HEAD-MAS-TER REALLY LOVED YOU...
GOD ...
...HE'S SUCH A JERK.

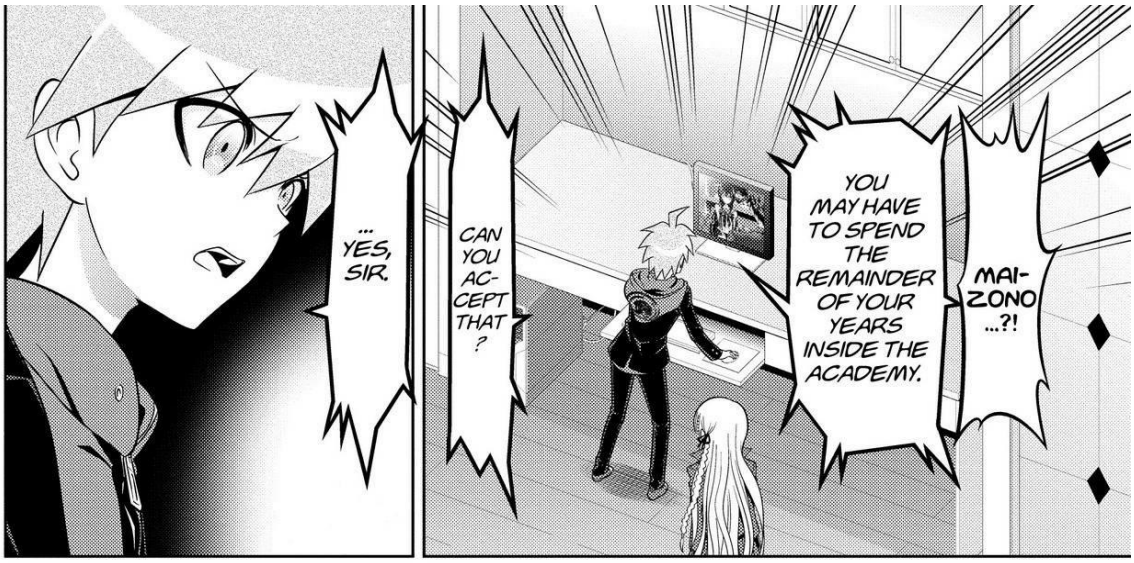

...THAT'S THE WHOLE REASON I ENDED UP IN THIS DAMN SCHOOL.
...I WAS GOING TO BURY ALL MY PAST THAT'S BEEN STAINED BY THE WAY HE ABAN-DONED ME...
I TOLD YOU...I WAS FINALLY GOING TO CUT THAT MAN OUT OF MY LIFE...
HE'S LEFT ME ONCE AGAIN. AND THIS TIME, HE'S STOLEN MY ONLY HOPE OF EVER FORGETTING HIM.
BUT I CAME HERE, AND WHAT HAS HE DONE ...?
...A HORRIBLE FATHER.
HE TRULY IS...


A memory card...?
SD
32GB

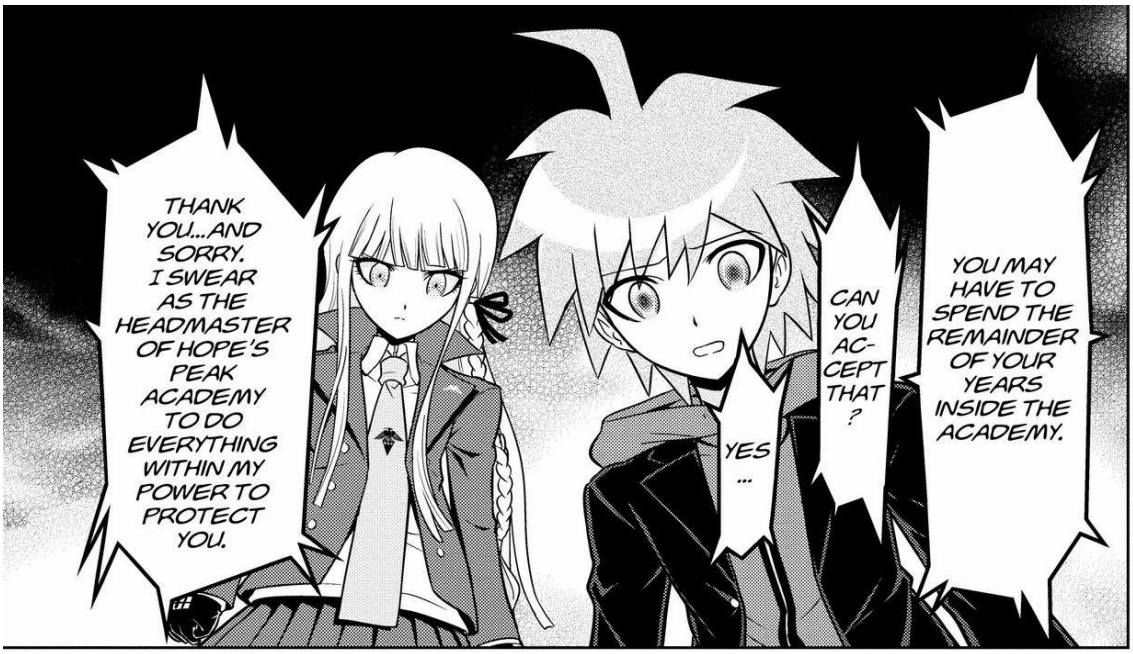
SOME-THING IS ON THE BACK...


...THERE'S A VIDEO ON IT...

カッ
flick

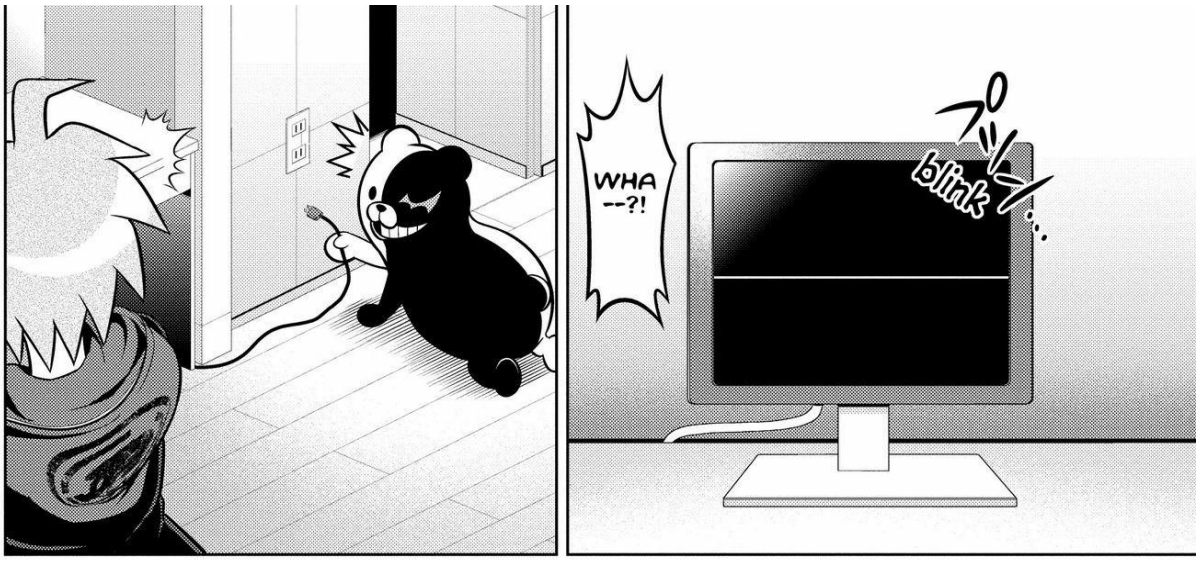

...YES, SIR.
CAN YOU ACCEPT THAT?
YOU MAY HAVE TO SPEND THE REMAINDER OF YOUR YEARS INSIDE THE ACADEMY.
MAIZONO...?!

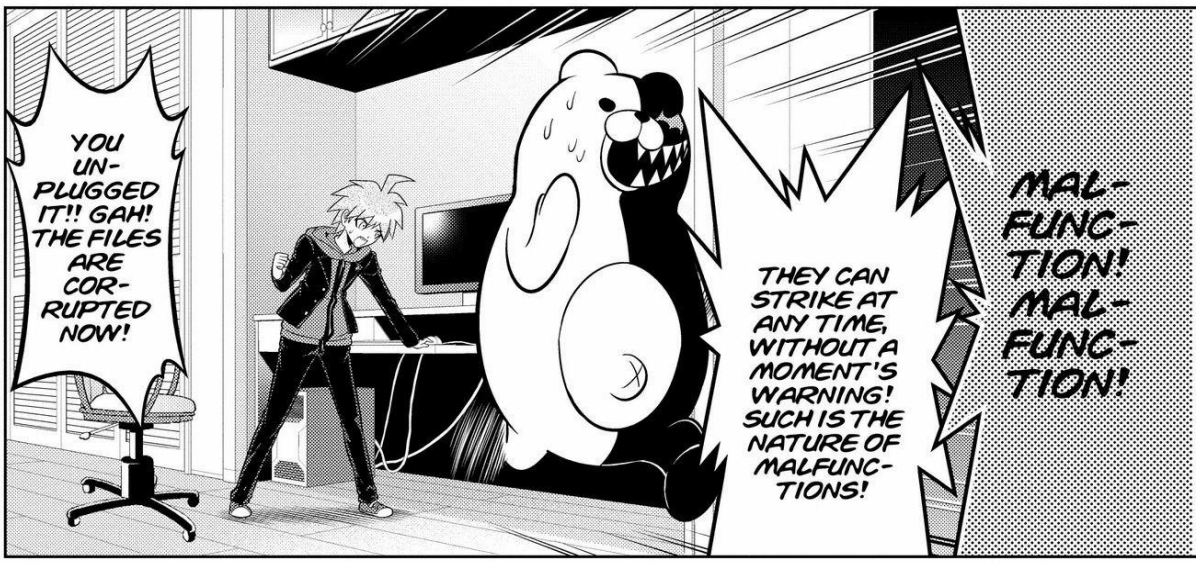
WHY WOULD SHE AGREE TO SPEND THE REST OF HER LIFE HERE...?
...WHY WOULD SHE SAY THAT? MAIZONO WANTED OUT SO DESPERATELY THAT SHE WAS WILLING TO FRAME ME...
WHY...
HEY... THAT'S ME!
KO
flick!
Jzzt

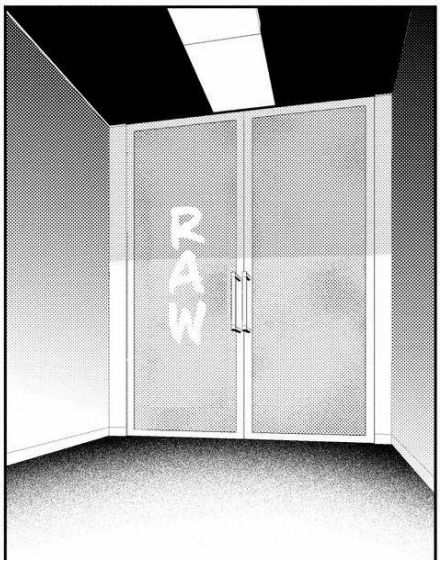

THANK YOU...AND SORRY. I SWEAR AS THE HEADMASTER OF HOPE'S PEAK ACADEMY TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER TO PROTECT YOU.
YES...
CAN YOU AC-CEPT THAT?
YOU MAY HAVE TO SPEND THE REMAINDER OF YOUR YEARS INSIDE THE ACADEMY.

AND I ACTUALLY SAID... "YES"...?
I DON'T REMEMBER EVER SEEING THE HEADMASTER, LET ALONE BEING INTERVIEWED BY HIM...
THIS ISN'T REAL ...IS IT?

...BUT WHY?
...THEY'RE ALL GOING ALONG WITH IT...
LOOK...

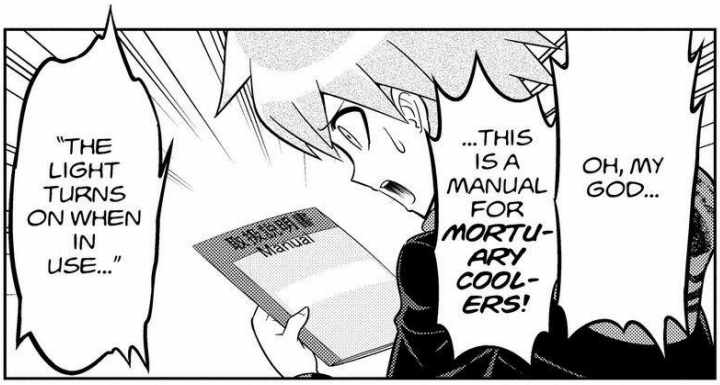

WHA --?!
blink


YOU UN-PLUGGED IT!! GAH! THE FILES ARE COR-RUPTED NOW!
THEY CAN STRIKE AT ANY TIME, WITHOUT A MOMENT'S WARNING! SUCH IS THE NATURE OF MALFUNC-TIONS!
MAL-FUNC-TION! MAL-FUNC-TION!


RAW

Maybe they showed some-thing the master-mind didn't want us to see...
The head-master left those files as a clue...

THE BIO LAB...
BRR, IT'S FREEZING... WHY IS THE A/C CRANKED UP SO HIGH...? AND THOSE LOCKERS...


OH, MY GOD...
...THIS IS A MANUAL FOR MORTUARY COOLERS!
Manual
"THE LIGHT TURNS ON WHEN IN USE..."

The nine lights show... that everyone we lost...
...wound up in there...
Nine... lights are on...?

WELL, MAYBE I BETTER GIVE Y'ALL A HINT! GET YER SHINY HINEYS OVER TO THE GYM TA HEAR IT!
HEY, YOUNG FOLKS! STILL SEARCHIN' FOR AN-SWERS ...?
MONO-KUMA! WHAT'S GOING--

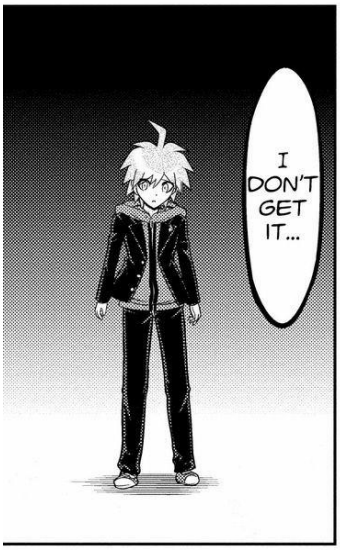
...YIKES!

...BUT DO I HAVE A CHOICE ...?
...HE'S UP TO SOME-THING ...

EH ...?

N-NA... EGI...

ASA-HINA ...!

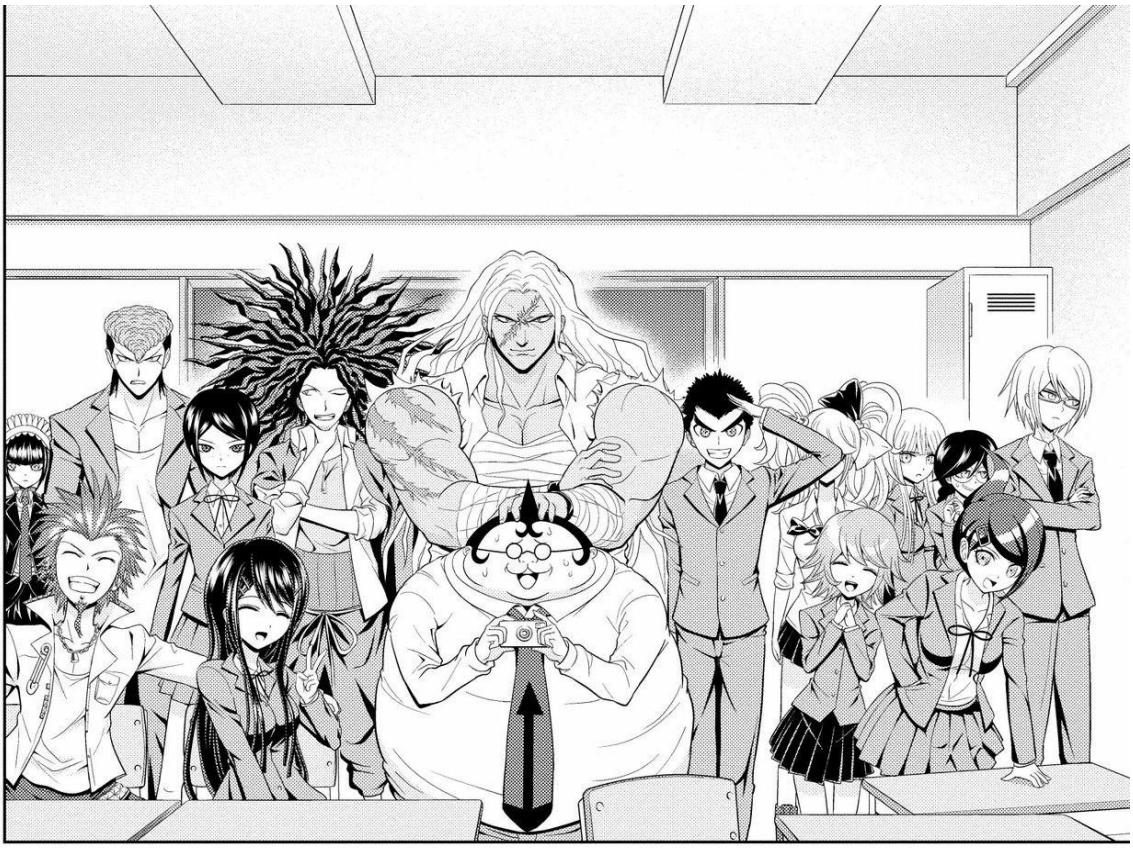

I DON'T GET IT...

fWoosh
S-SORRY, M-MAN, BUT I'M IN A HURRY...!!
UM ...

WHOA! N-N-NAEGS !!
HAGA-KURE ...?

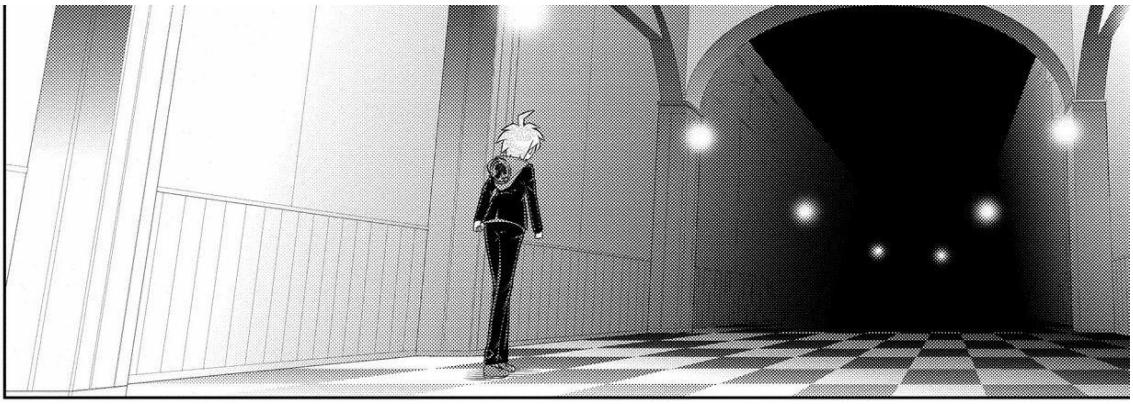
IT'S A PHOTO ...

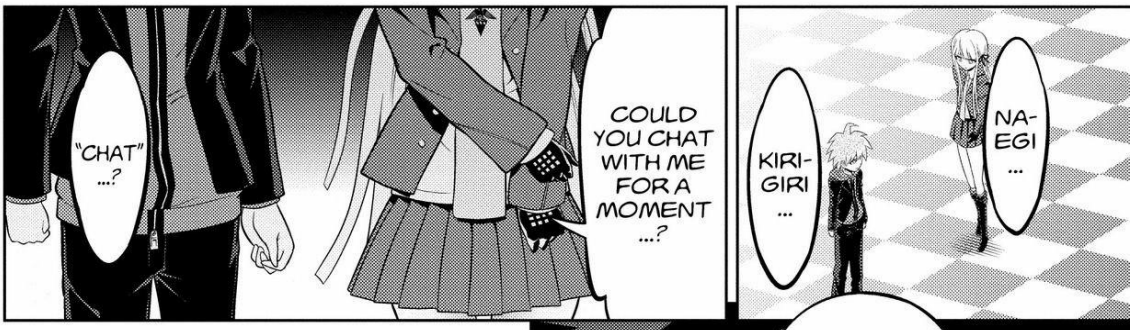
IS THAT MONO-KUMA'S "HINT" ...?
HUH.



WAIT... BACK UP...
WHAT... THE HELL ...?
WHAT'S SHE DOING IN THE GROUP PHOTO ...?
AND... MUKURO IKUSABA ?!
WHAT ...?
WE'RE ALL WEARING UNIFORMS? I DON'T RECOGNIZE THE CLASSROOM ...

...I'M THE ONLY ONE MISSING...
ding
dong
dong
dong
WHERE THERE IS A BEGINNING, THERE IS AN ENDING.
WHY... ENDINGS CAN OPEN THE DOOR TO NEW BEGINNINGS.
SO WE'LL MEET AGAIN! FOR THIS ENDING IS ONLY THE BEGINNING...
...AND WITHOUT FURTHER ADO... LET'S BEGIN!
...THE BEGINNING OF THE END...OF THE CLASS TRIALS!!!



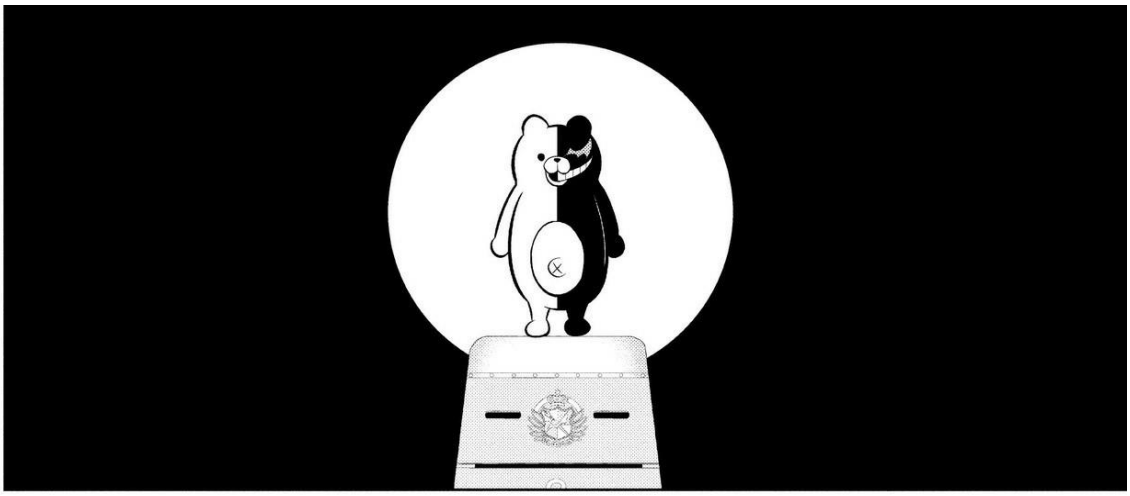

NA-EGI ...
KIRI-GIRI ...
COULD YOU CHAT WITH ME FOR A MOMENT ...?
"CHAT" ...?

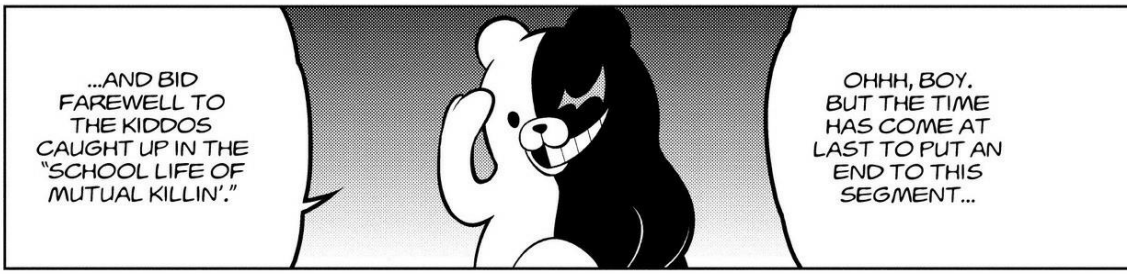
I'VE BEEN ASKING MYSELF... HOW TO COME TO TERMS WITH HIS DEATH...
BY "HIS"... YOU MEAN YOUR FATHER ...?
IN THE END, I COULDN'T FIGURE IT OUT...
...IN-STEAD, I FEEL EVEN MORE CON-FLICTED THAN BE-FORE ...
I FEAR THE ANSWER WILL ELUDE ME...
...FOR-EVER.

...I CANNOT FORGIVE THE MASTER-MIND.
THERE'S ONLY ONE CLEAR PLACE IN MY EMO-TIONS...
WELL, IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, THEN LET'S JUST MAKE SURE ...
...WE WIN!
IT SEEMS SO RIDICU-LOUS. EVEN I'M NOT SURE WHY I FEEL THIS WAY...
ISN'T IT STRANGE...? I NEVER EXPECTED TO FEEL SO...OUT-RAGED... BY THE INJUSTICE HE SUFFERED ...

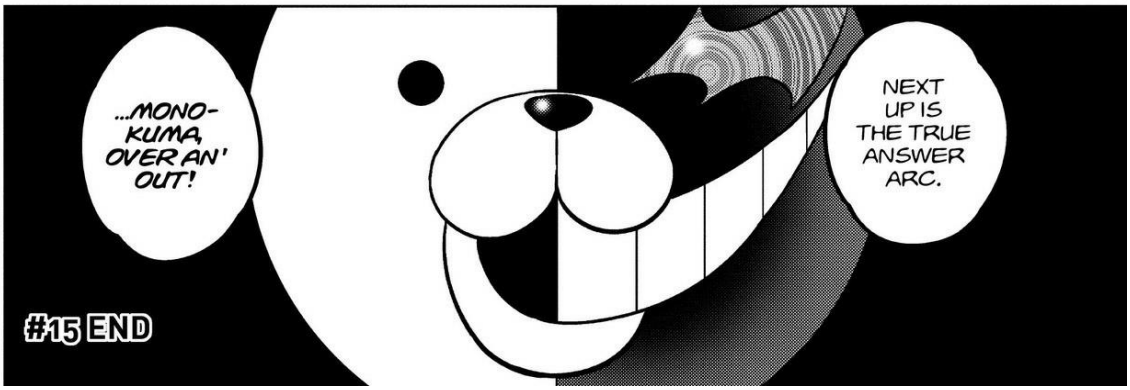
COULD IT BE Y'ALL'S DESPAIR IS AS DARK AND DEEP AS IT'S EVER BEEN? I THINK SO!!!
U PU PUU! WE GOT A FULL LINEUP...OF GLOOMY ADOLES-CENT EXPRES-SIONS !!!
YAHOO !!!
PUNK

THE FINAL CLASS TRIAL IS NOW...
...IN SESSION!
I'M PARTICIPATIN' THIS TIME, SEEIN' AS IT'S THE FINAL CLASS TRIAL!
Y'ALL FINALLY GET TO FIGHT THE "LAST BOSS" !!!



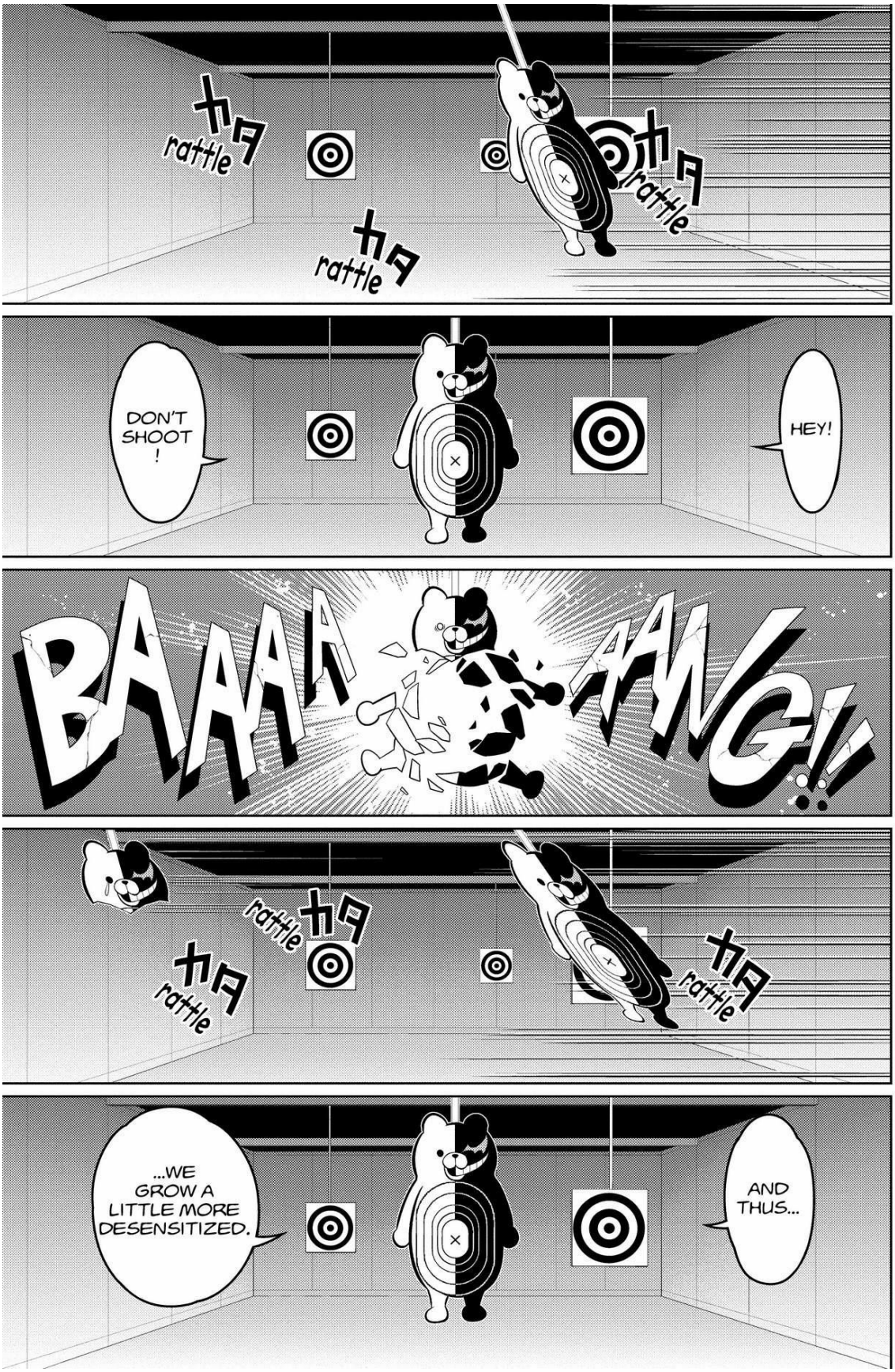

...AND BID FAREWELL TO THE KIDDOS CAUGHT UP IN THE "SCHOOL LIFE OF MUTUAL KILLIN'."
OHHH, BOY. BUT THE TIME HAS COME AT LAST TO PUT AN END TO THIS SEGMENT...

THINK OF THAT AS MY PART-ING HINT...
SPEAKIN' OF WHICH, COULDN'T PART OF MUKURO IKUSABA'S MONOKUMA FILE ALSO BE READ MULTIPLE WAYS...?
... "BID FARE-WELL."
WILL THEY FINALLY PUT THIS SCHOOL BEHIND 'EM? OR DOES DEATH AWAIT THEM ALL? U PU PUU! THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO INTERPRET THE PHRASE...


...MONO-KUMA, OVER AN' OUT!
NEXT UP IS THE TRUE ANSWER ARC.
#15 END

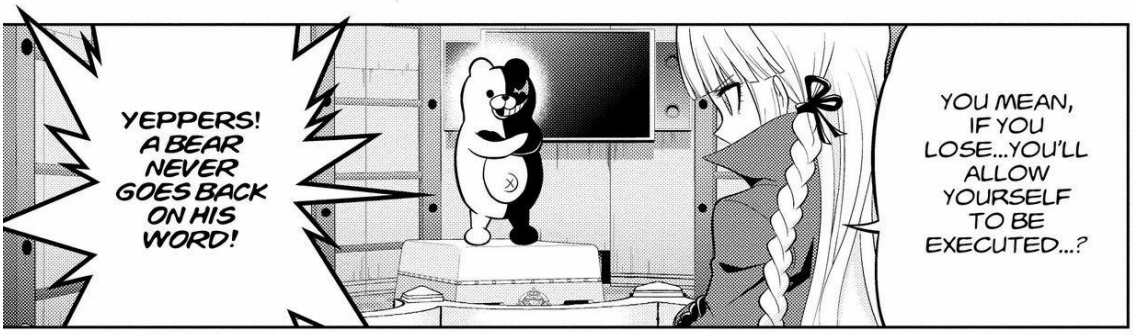
DANGANRONPA
A SCHOOL OF HOPE . . . WITH STUDENTS OF DESPAIR!
THE ANIMATION

DANGANRONPA
A SCHOOL OF HOPE . . . WITH STUDENTS OF DESPAIR!
THE ANIMATION

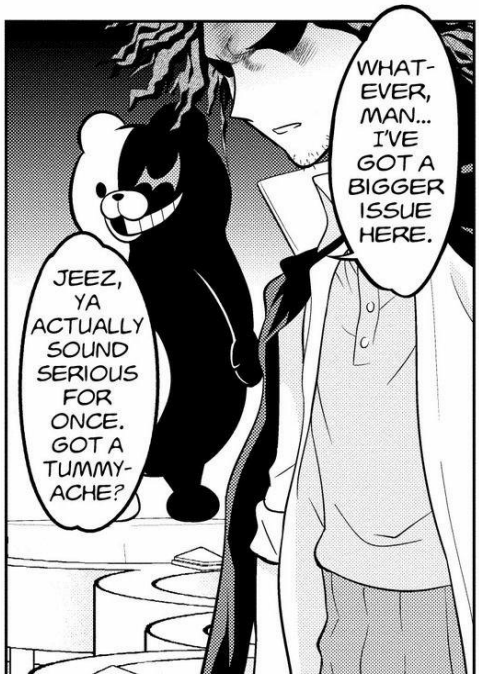

カタ rattle
カタ rattle
カタ rattle
DON'T SHOOT!
HEY!
BAAAA
AANG!!
カタ rattle
カタ rattle
カタ rattle
...WE GROW A LITTLE MORE DESENSITIZED.
AND THUS...

#16
[THE REASON ULTIMATE BAD LUCK ATTRACTED THE ULTIMATE KILLER, THE ULTIMATE EXECUTION, AND ULTIMATE DESPAIR II]

AN' IT GOES WITHOUT SAYIN', BUT I'VE PREPARED A TOTALLY AWESOME PUNISHMENT FOR THE LOSIN' SIDE!
BUT IF YA FAIL TO DO BOTH... I WIN!
IF Y'ALL MANAGE TO IDENTIFY MUKURO IKUSABA'S KILLER AND UNRAVEL THE MYSTERIES SURROUNDIN' THIS SCHOOL... YOU WIIIINNNN!
WHOOP! WHOOP! IT'S THE FINAL CLASS TRIAL!! AN' DON'CHA KNOW I ADDED SOME GREAT NEW RULES JUST FOR THIS SPECIAL OCCASION!

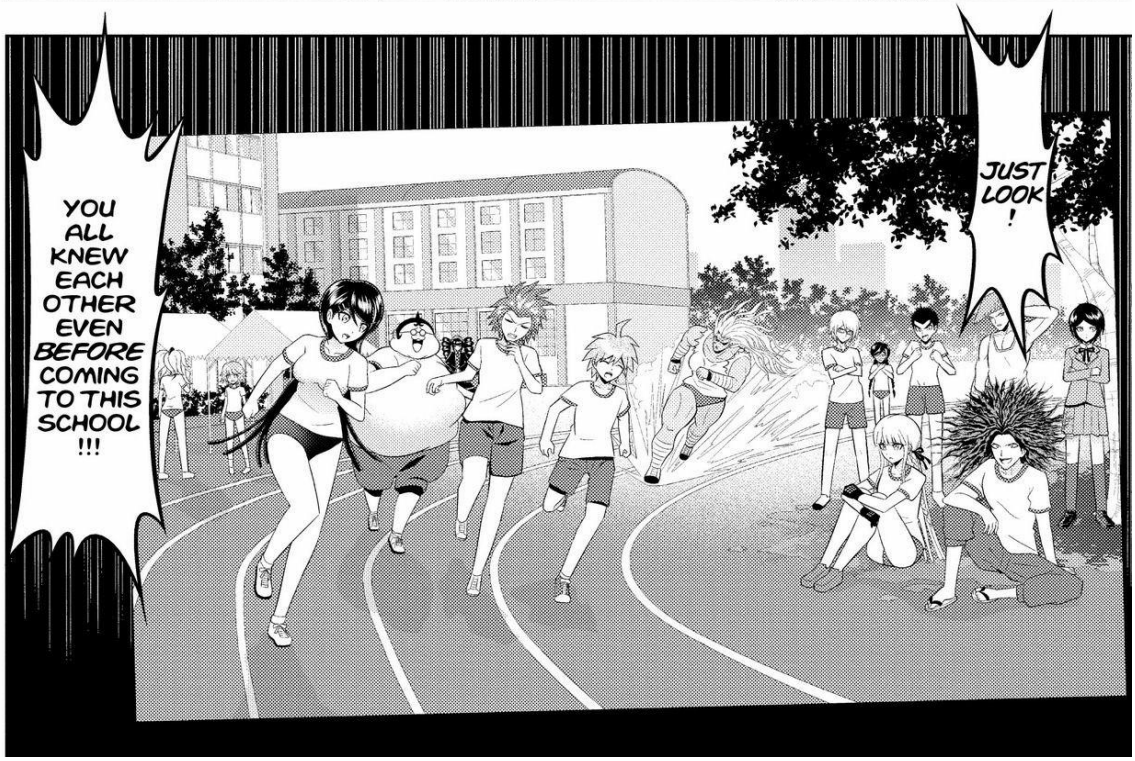

YEPPERS! A BEAR NEVER GOES BACK ON HIS WORD!
YOU MEAN, IF YOU LOSE...YOU'LL ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE EXECUTED...?

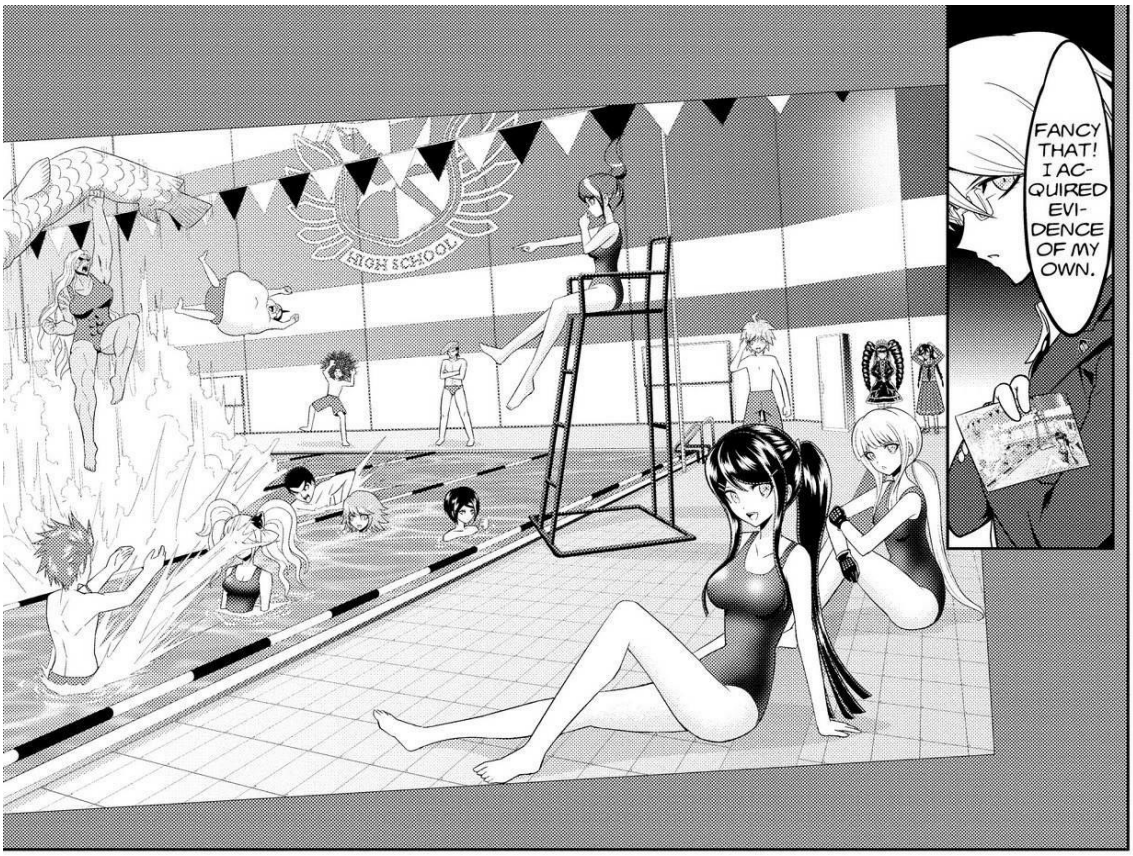
I'VE GOT COLD, HARD EVI-DENCE TO PROVE IT!!
...Y'ALL ARE IN CA-HOOTS WITH THE MAS-TER-MIND, AIN'T YA...?!

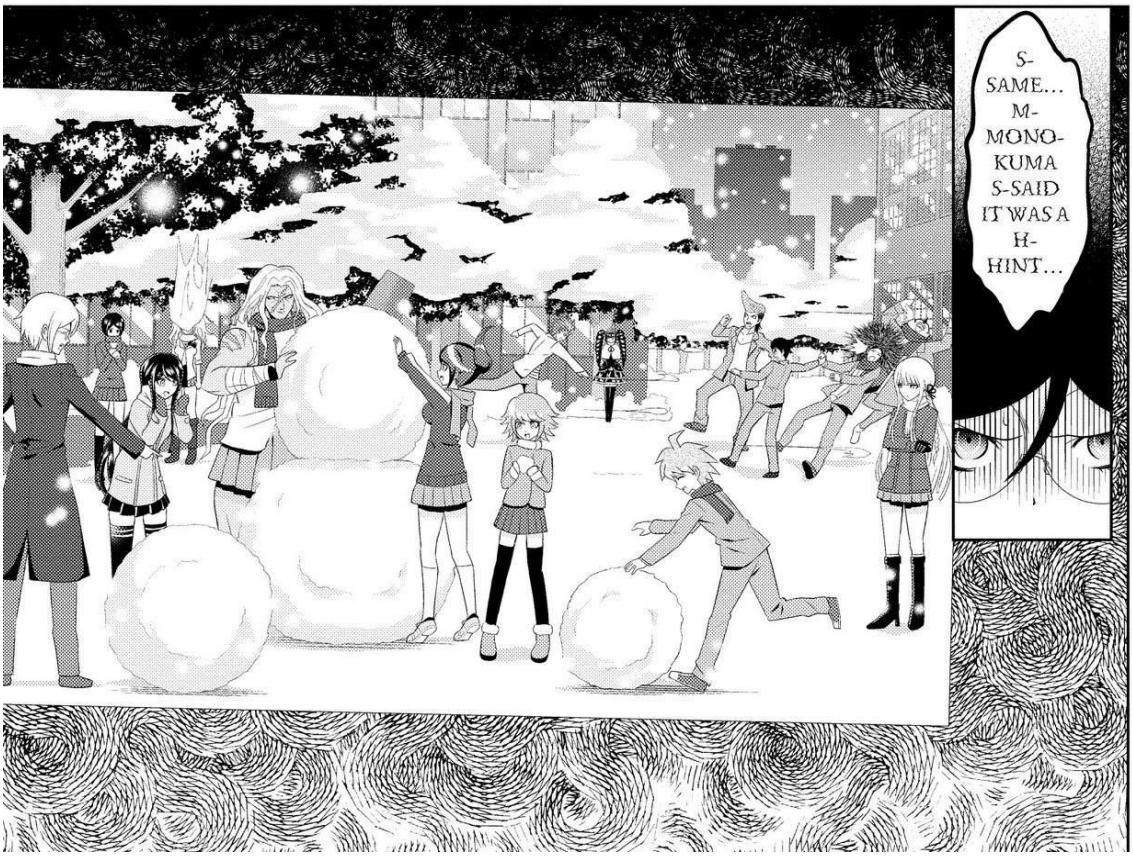

JEEZ, YA ACTUALLY SOUND SERIOUS FOR ONCE. GOT A TUMMY-ACHE?
WHAT-EVER, MAN... I'VE GOT A BIGGER ISSUE HERE.

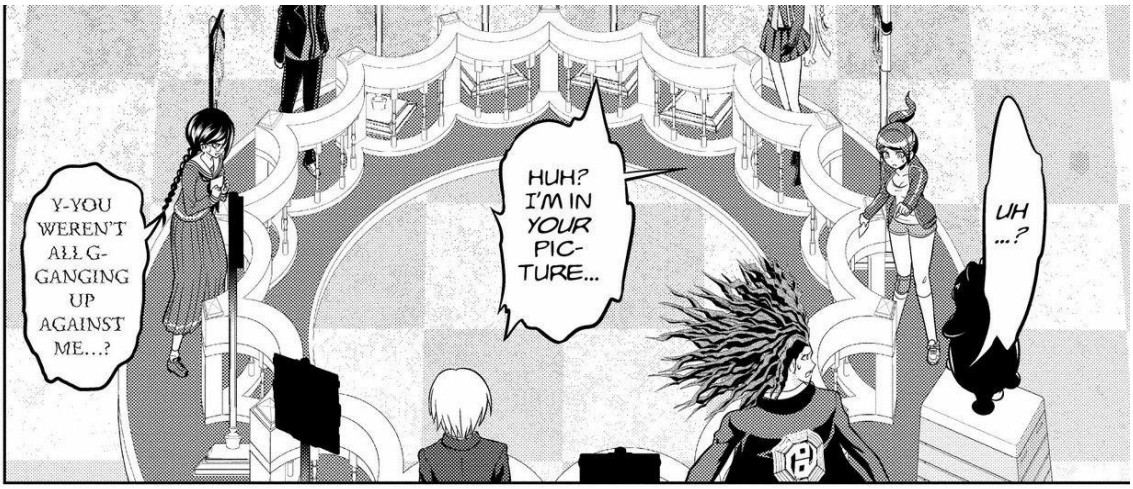
da-
dum!
LOOK! CHECK OUT THIS PIC-TURE !!
IT'S A GROUP SHOT OF EVERY-ONE-- EVERY-ONE BUT ME! Y'ALL WERE IN ON THIS TOGETH-ER!!!

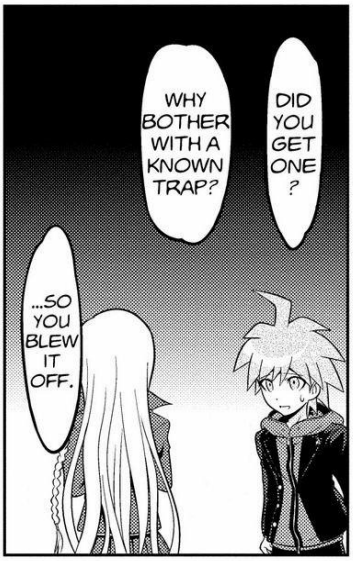
...WELL, I WAS ABOUT TO SAY THE SAME THING!
YOU'RE ALL TRYING TO PULL A FAST ONE ON ME, AREN'T YOU...?!
UH ?

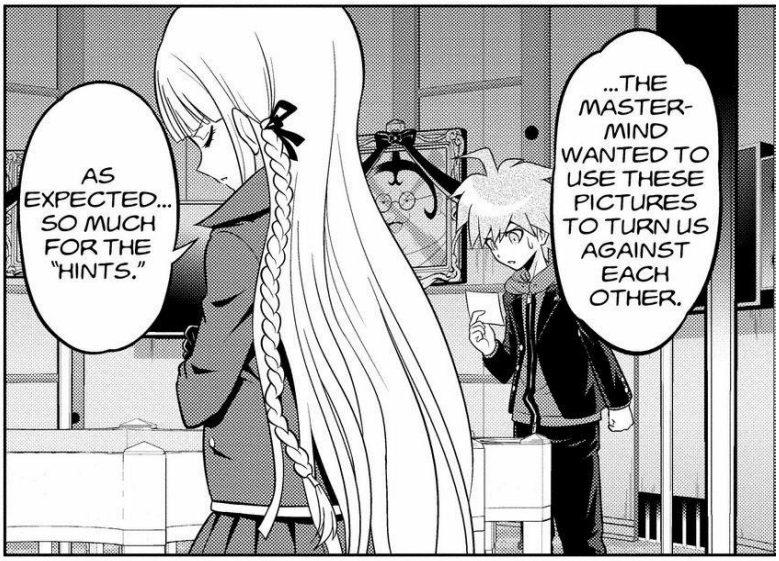

JUST LOOK !
YOU ALL KNEW EACH OTHER EVEN BEFORE COMING TO THIS SCHOOL !!!


HIGH SCHOOL
FANCY THAT! I ACQUIRED EVIDENCE OF MY OWN.


S-SAME... M-MONOKUMA S-SAID IT WAS A H-HINT...

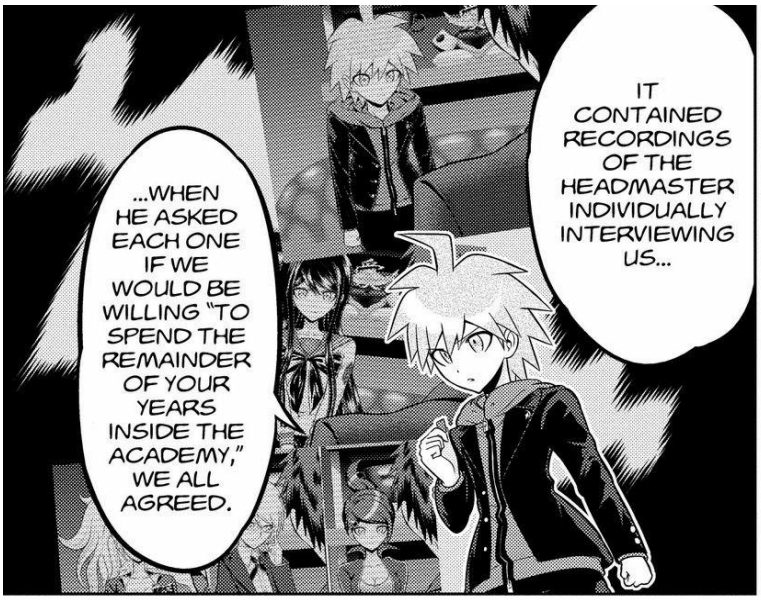

Y-YOU WEREN'T ALL G-GANGING UP AGAINST ME...?
HUH? I'M IN YOUR PIC-TURE...
UH ...?


WHY BOTHER WITH A KNOWN TRAP?
DID YOU GET ONE ?
...SO YOU BLEW IT OFF.


AS EXPECTED... SO MUCH FOR THE "HINTS."
...THE MASTER-MIND WANTED TO USE THESE PICTURES TO TURN US AGAINST EACH OTHER.

WAIT. ARE YOU SURE HE'S LYING TO US...?
WHAT ARE YOU GET-TING AT?

MORE PHOTO-SHOP CRAP ?!
BULL!! I DON'T RE-MEM-BER THESE PIC-TURES !!
FIRST, THAT'S A REGIS-TERED TRADE-MARK, AND SECOND, I DIDN'T EDIT A THING!

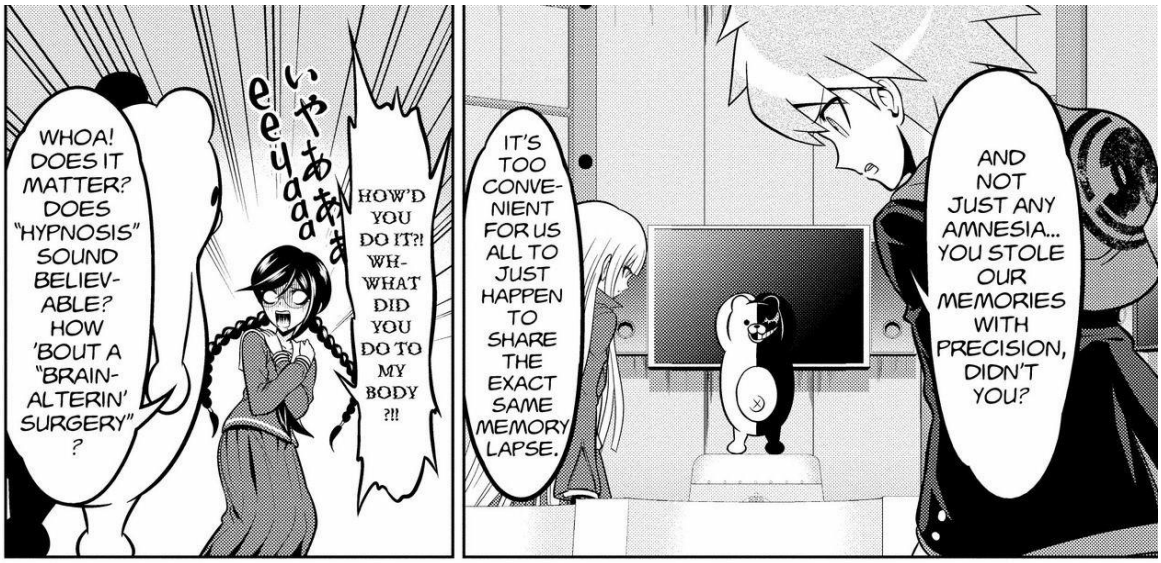

IT CONTAINED RECORDINGS OF THE HEADMASTER INDIVIDUALLY INTERVIEWING US...
...WHEN HE ASKED EACH ONE IF WE WOULD BE WILLING "TO SPEND THE REMAINDER OF YOUR YEARS INSIDE THE ACADEMY," WE ALL AGREED.

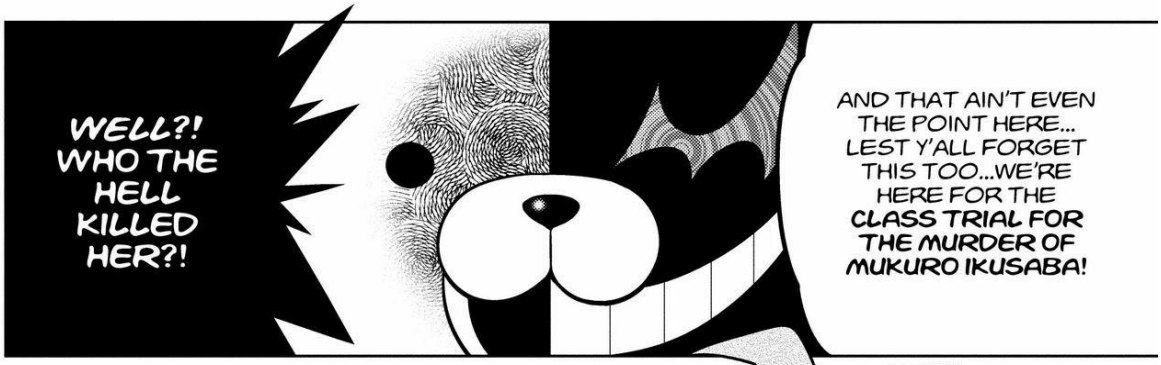
THE HEAD-MASTER LEFT BEHIND SOME VIDEO FOOT-AGE...
...I'M PRETTY SURE THE MASTER-MIND DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT.

I'VE NEVER EVEN MET THE HEAD-MAS-TER!
AND HE'S NEVER INTER-VIEW-ED ME!
EXACT-LY... NO ONE REMEM-BERS IT...

BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T MEAN IT'S FAKE. THERE COULD BE ANOTHER REASON WHY WE DON'T REMEMBER IT...
A COM-PLETELY RIDICU-LOUS, YET TERRIFY-ING REASON...

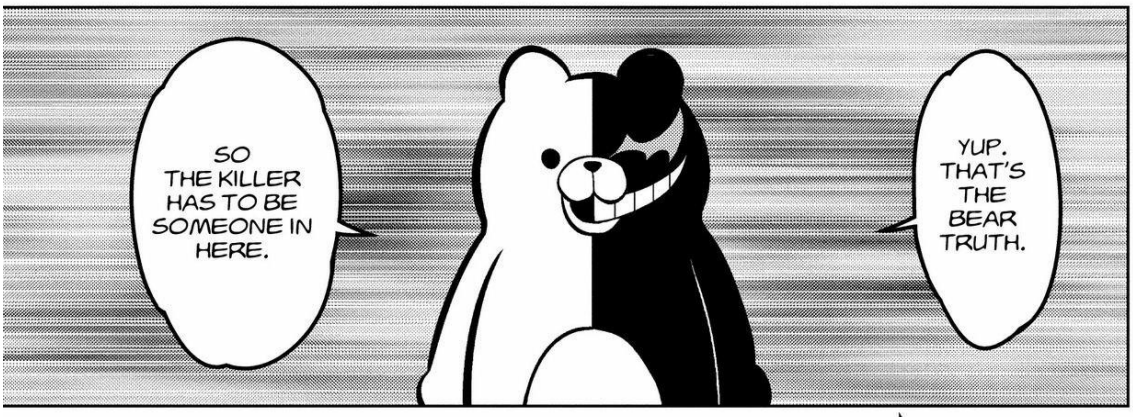
ALL OF US ARE SUFFERING...
...FROM MEMORY LOSS.
WHAAAAAT??!!
THAT'S RIGHT! HE NAILED IT! THE WHOLE FRICKIN' CLASS HAS AMNESIA!!!
SHUCKS! YA NOTICED ?!

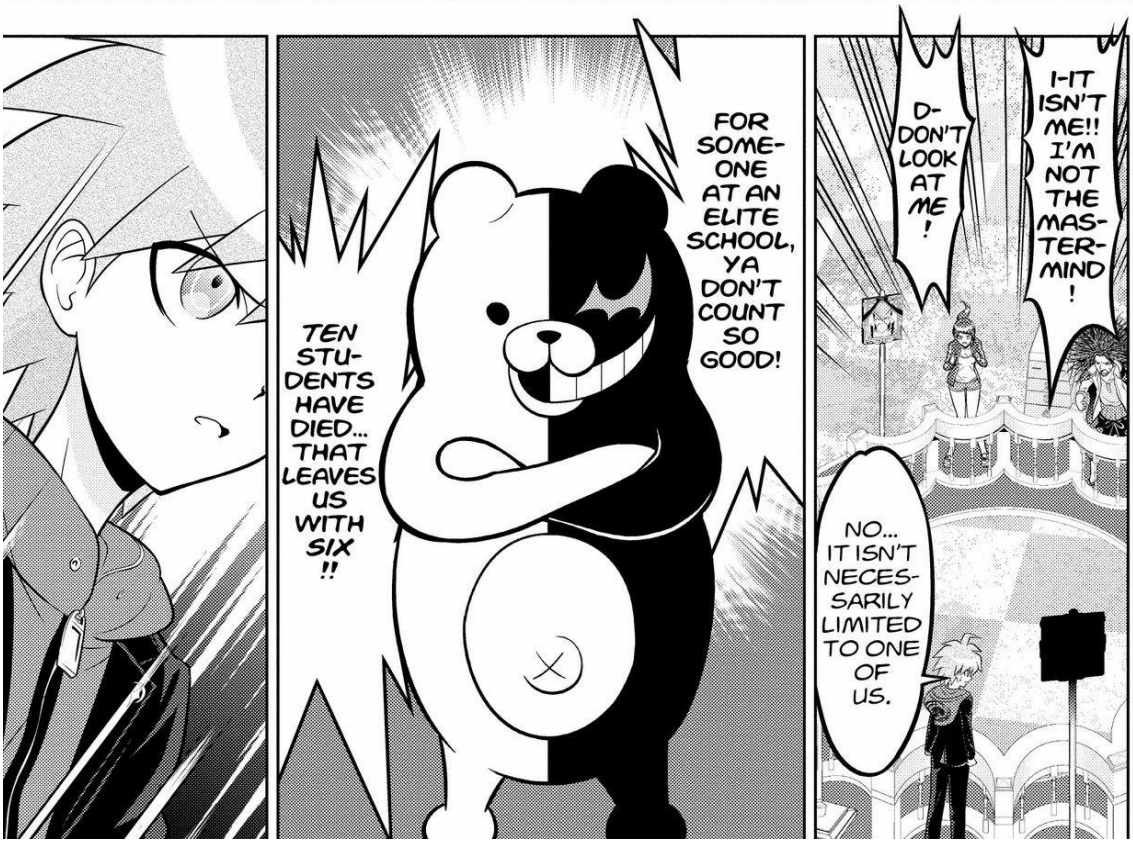

WHOA! DOES IT MATTER? DOES "HYPNOSIS" SOUND BELIEV-ABLE? HOW 'BOUT A "BRAIN-ALTERIN' SURGERY"?
いやあああ eeyaaaa
HOW'D YOU DO IT?! WH-WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY BODY ?!!
IT'S TOO CONVE-NIENT FOR US ALL TO JUST HAPPEN TO SHARE THE EXACT SAME MEMORY LAPSE.
AND NOT JUST ANY AMNESIA... YOU STOLE OUR MEMORIES WITH PRECISION, DIDN'T YOU?


WELL?! WHO THE HELL KILLED HER?!
AND THAT AIN'T EVEN THE POINT HERE... LEST Y'ALL FORGET THIS TOO...WE'RE HERE FOR THE CLASS TRIAL FOR THE MURDER OF MUKURO IKUSABA!

SHOW US WHAT KINDA STUF-FIN' YER MADE OF !!!
OH, YEAH ?! BEARY IN-TER-EST-ING !!!
bam!
I'VE ALREADY FIGURED THAT PART OUT!!
I KNOW WHO THE KILLER-- THE MAS-TER-MIND-- REALLY IS!
wham!

ONLY SIXTEEN HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS ENTERED THIS ACADEMY ALIVE.
...YOU'RE ABSO-LUTELY SURE ABOUT THAT...?


YUP. THAT'S THE BEAR TRUTH.
SO THE KILLER HAS TO BE SOMEONE IN HERE.


I-IT ISN'T ME!! I'M NOT THE MAS-TER-MIND!
D-DON'T LOOK AT ME!
NO... IT ISN'T NECES-SARILY LIMITED TO ONE OF US.
FOR SOME-ONE AT AN ELITE SCHOOL, YA DON'T COUNT SO GOOD!
TEN STU-DENTS HAVE DIED... THAT LEAVES US WITH SIX!!

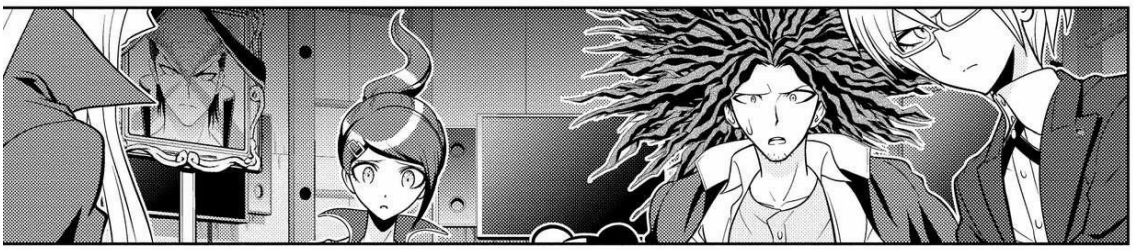
YOUCH !!
THERE WERE ONLY NINE CORPSES IN THE BIO LAB!!
Whamm!
COOLER LIGHTS
THAT'S NOT TRUE!

THE MASTERMIND USED A CORPSE FROM THE MORGUE COOLER TO CREATE THE ILLUSION OF A NEW VICTIM!
RIGHT... THE BODY IN THE GARDEN WAS REUSED FROM ONE OF THOSE NINE.

NO...WE SHOULD VIEW THAT AS NOTHING MORE THAN CAMOU-FLAGE.
DID ANYONE GET H-HIT WITH A PIPE IN THE BACK OF THEIR HEAD...?!
S-SO WHO'D THE BODY BE-LONG TO...?!

!!!
THE NUM-BERS DON'T ADD UP ...?!

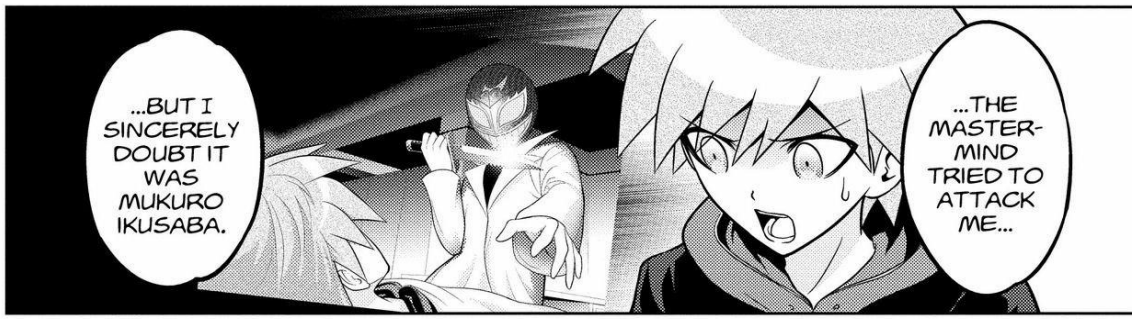
THE VICTIM DIED FROM A SCORE OF INJURIES ACROSS HER BODY...!
DOESN'T THAT REMIND YOU OF SOMEONE ...?

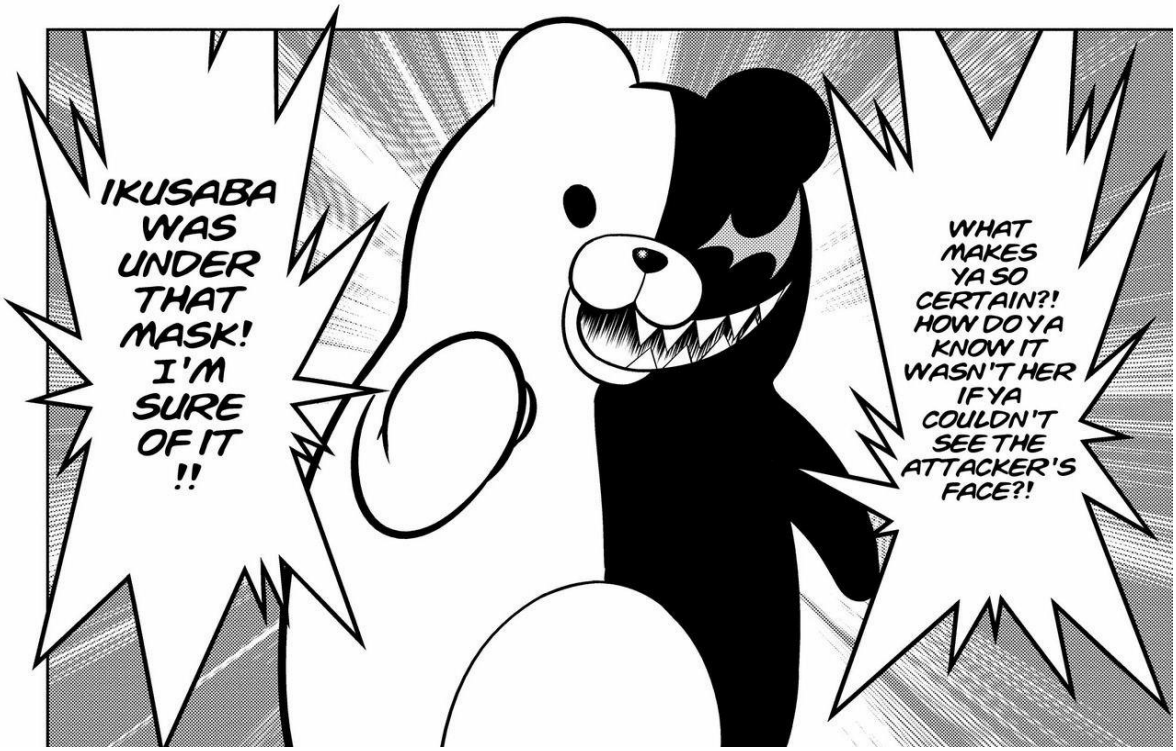


...!
WAIT. WHA ...?

NO ...
EH ?

IN WHICH CASE, MUKURO IKUSABA IS STILL ALIVE ...!
THAT WAS JUNKO ...?!
JUNKO ENO-SHIMA ...!

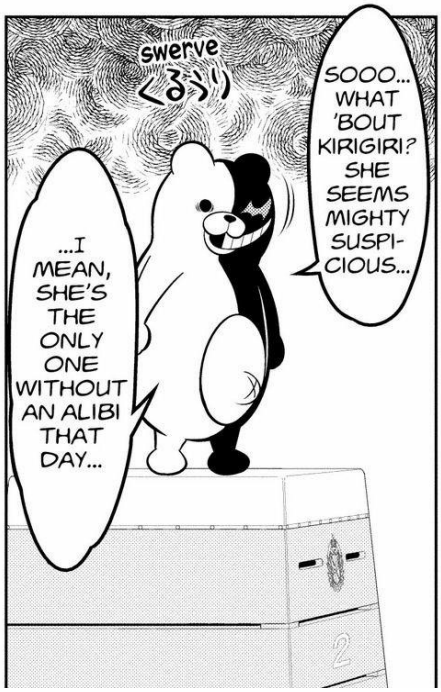

...BUT I SINCERELY DOUBT IT WAS MUKURO IKUSABA.
...THE MASTER-MIND TRIED TO ATTACK ME...

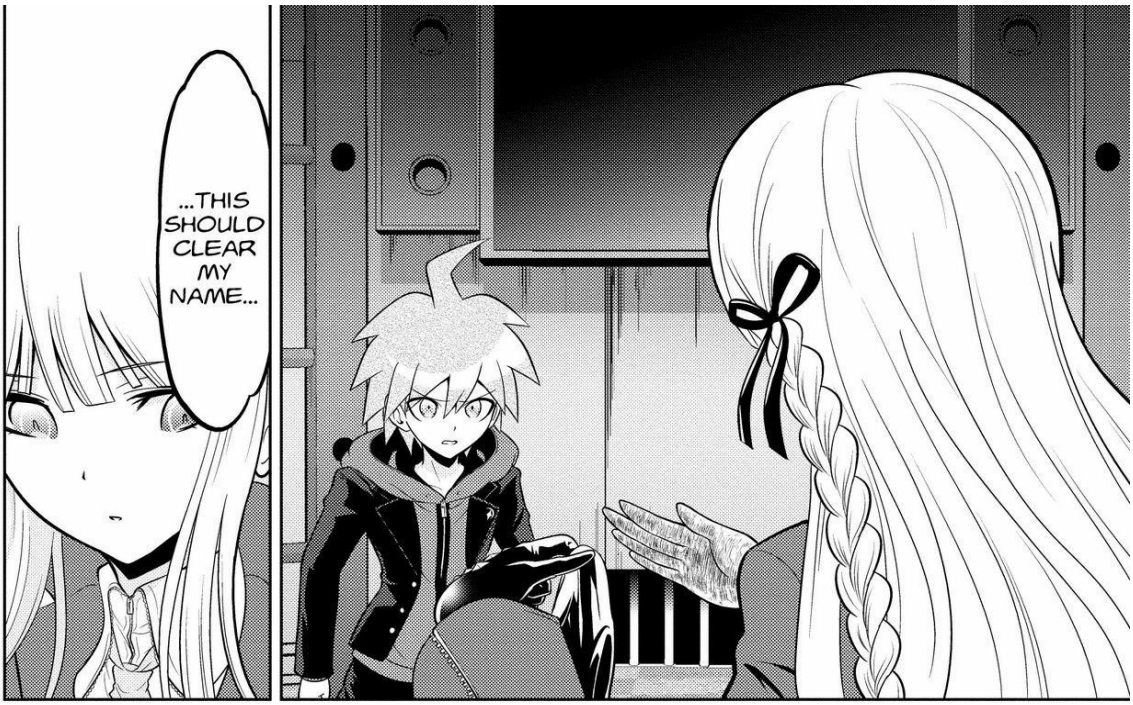

IKUSABA WAS UNDER THAT MASK! I'M SURE OF IT !!
WHAT MAKES YA SO CERTAIN?! HOW DO YA KNOW IT WASN'T HER IF YA COULDN'T SEE THE ATTACKER'S FACE?!

YOWZA !!
THERE WASN'T A FENRIR TATTOO ON MY ASSAIL-ANT'S RIGHT HAND!!
bammm!
THAT CAN'T BE!
TATTOO ON RIGHT HAND

...BUT THAT DON'T MEAN IT WAS A CUTE LI'L CUB LIKE ME UNDER THAT MASK...
...HMMM! MAYBE IT WASN'T IKUSABA AFTER ALL...

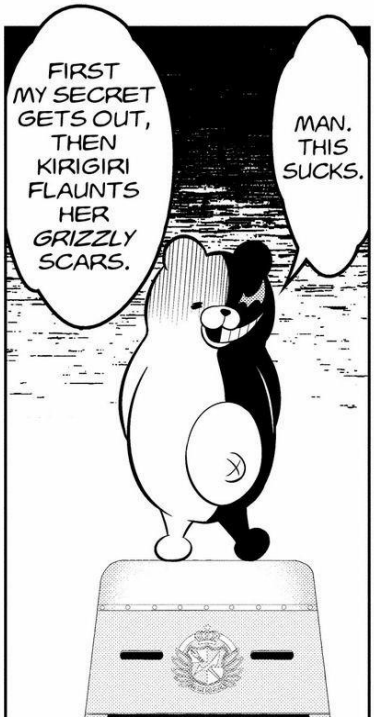
...FINE.
I'LL SHOW YOU MY HAND.


swerve
くるり
SOOO... WHAT 'BOUT KIRIGIRI? SHE SEEMS MIGHTY SUSPI-CIOUS...
...I MEAN, SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WITHOUT AN ALIBI THAT DAY...


...THIS SHOULD CLEAR MY NAME...

...I GOT THESE BURNS WHEN I WAS STILL GREEN... BACK WHEN I FIRST STARTED WORKING AS A DETECTIVE.
HOR-RIBLE, ISN'T IT...?

OH, SORRY! THAT SLIPPED RIGHT OUT! DID I HURT YER FEEL-INGS?
NOT PAR-TICU-LARLY... I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY.


MAN. THIS SUCKS.
FIRST MY SECRET GETS OUT, THEN KIRIGIRI FLAUNTS HER GRIZZLY SCARS.

ARE YOU OKAY... WITH SHOW-ING THAT TO US ...?
IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY IF IT WILL HELP REVEAL THE MAS-TER-MIND'S IDEN-TITY.

FROM THE START...
...I'VE KNOWN THAT KIRIGIRI WASN'T THE CULPRIT.
THE MASTERMIND GUILTY OF...
...KILLING IKUSABA... AND CONTROLLING MONOKUMA...
...SELECT SOMEONE!

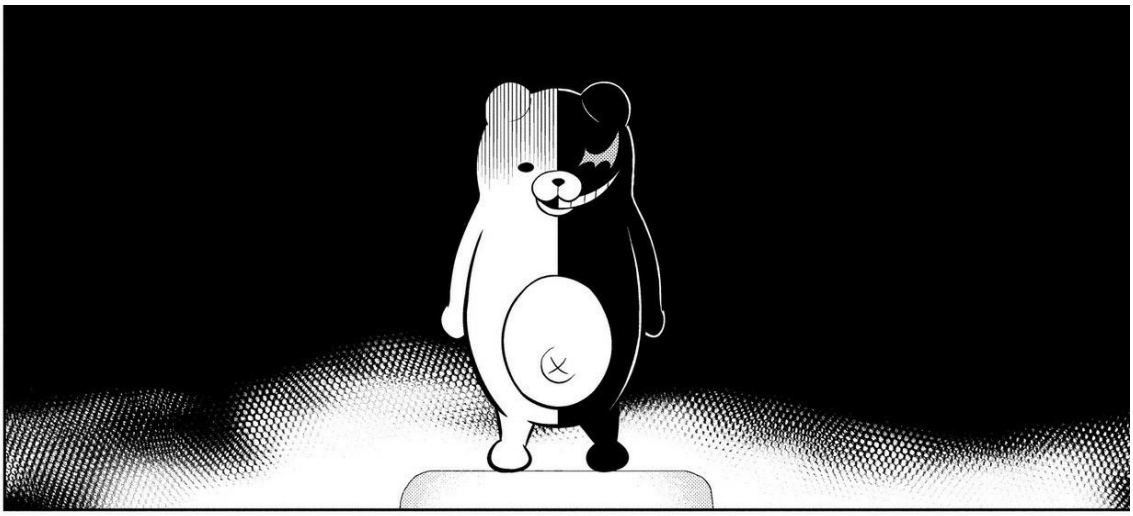
...IS YOU...
THE MAS-TER-MIND ...?!?
ENO-SHIMA ...?!

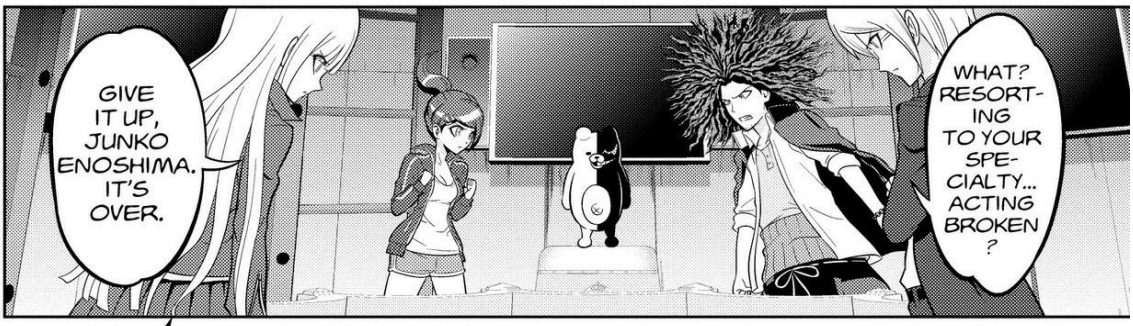
...ENO-SHIMA !!!
YOU SERI-OUSLY THINK I'M ENO-SHIMA ...?!
WELL, GOOD LUCK PROVIN' THAT !!!
I FIGURED YOU'D DENY IT... BUT I'M ONTO YOUR GAME.
...YOU'VE BEEN IN HIDING SINCE FAKING YOUR OWN DEATH.

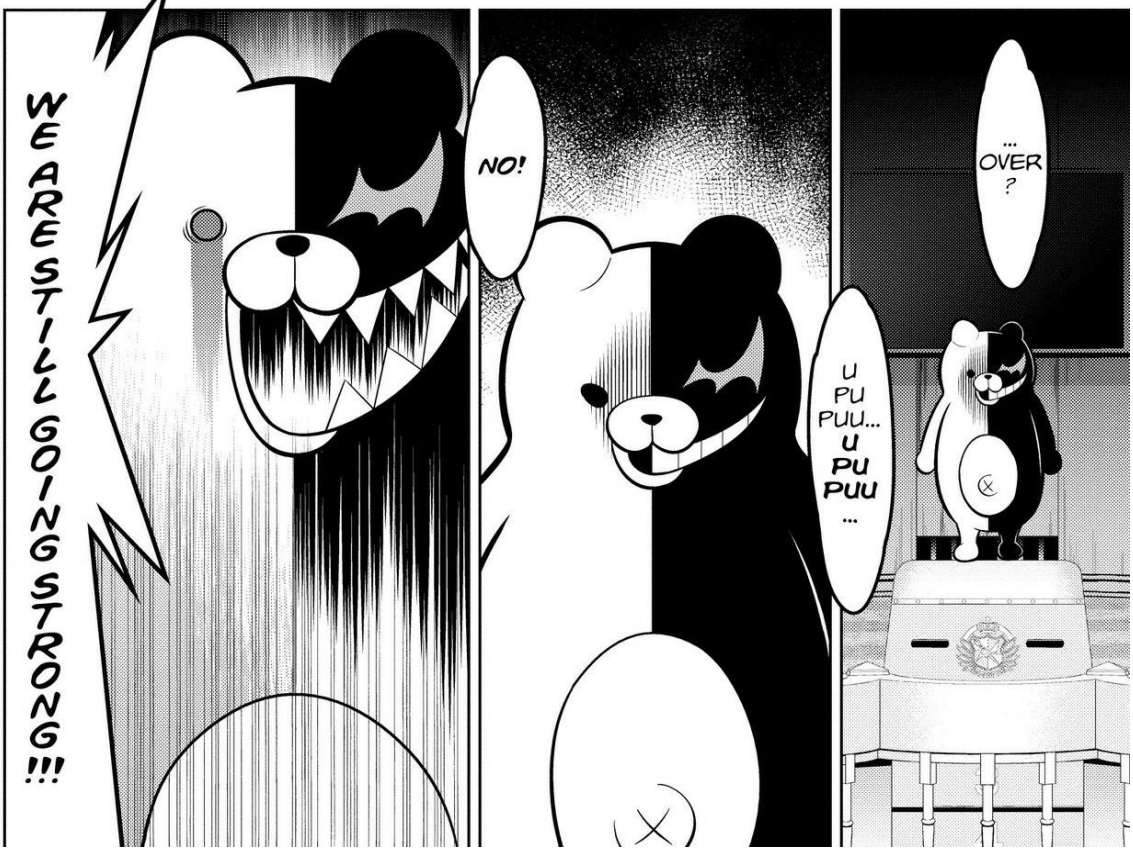
JUNKO ENO-SHIMA HAD SWAP-PED IDENTI-TIES WITH MUKURO IKUSABA FROM THE VERY BEGIN-NING!!
YOU WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY TO KEEP US FROM SEEING YOUR FACE...
...BE-CAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT US TO KNOW WHAT THE REAL JUNKO ENO-SHIMA LOOKS LIKE!
TH-THE "REAL JUNKO ENO-SHIMA"?! NICE TRY, PAL! BUT...
...YA AL-READY MET HER FIRST DAY A CLASS... UP CLOSE 'N' PER-SONAL!
WITH-OUT OUR MEMO-RIES, IT FELT LIKE WE'D NEVER MET BE-FORE...
THAT'S WHY WE DIDN'T REAL-IZE AN IMPOS-TOR WAS POSING AS ENO-SHIMA!

NNGGH...!
YOU PUT THAT LINE ABOUT "PREEXISTING" WOUNDS TO MISLEAD US INTO THINKING THEY WERE OLD BATTLE INJURIES, DIDN'T YOU..?
BUT SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY SCARS FROM HER MERCENARY DAYS..!
"BOASTING UNMATCHED FIGHTING PROWESS, HER BODY REMAINED UNMARRED BY BATTLE WOUNDS."
THE CULPRIT MADE IT APPEAR LIKE SHE WAS DEAD BY MURDERING IKUSABA AFTER THEY TRADED PLACES
..BUT THE REAL JUNKO ENOSHIMA IS STILL ALIVE AND TICKING !!!
XANADU!!!
YOU ACTUALLY MURDERED MUKURO IKUSABA! THAT'S WHY THE "TWO" BODIES SHARE THE SAME CAUSE OF DEATH!!!

SHE'S THE RINGLEADER- THE TRUE MASTERMIND FOR THIS SCHOOL LIFE OF MUTUAL KILLING !!!
ドガガガガ!!!
FAXANADU!!!
RE'




GIVE IT UP, JUNKO ENOSHIMA. IT'S OVER.
WHAT? RESORTING TO YOUR SPECIALTY... ACTING BROKEN?

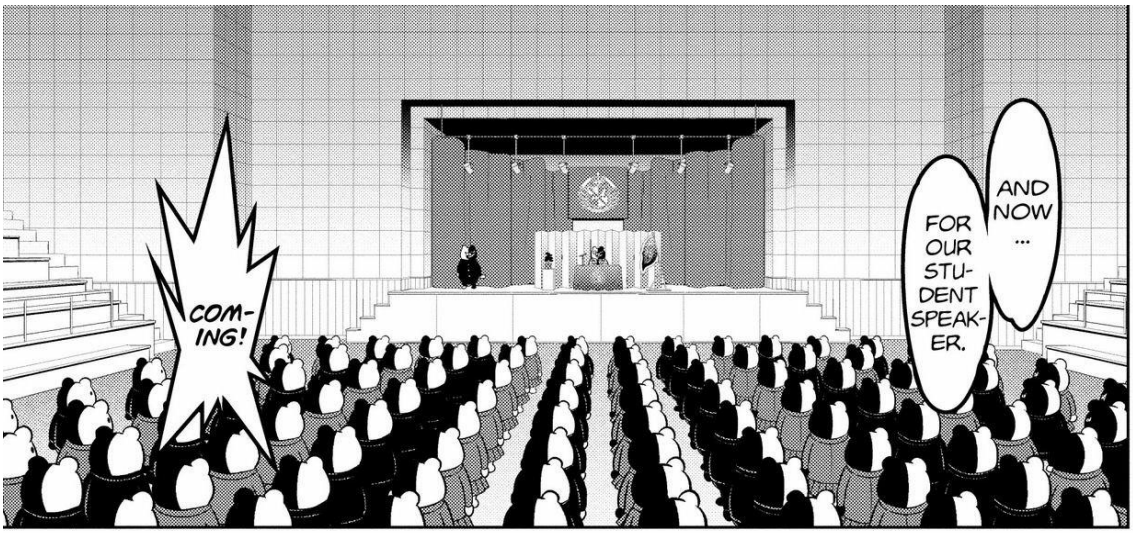

...OVER?
U PU PUU... U PU PUU...
NO!
WE ARE STILL GOING STRONG!!!

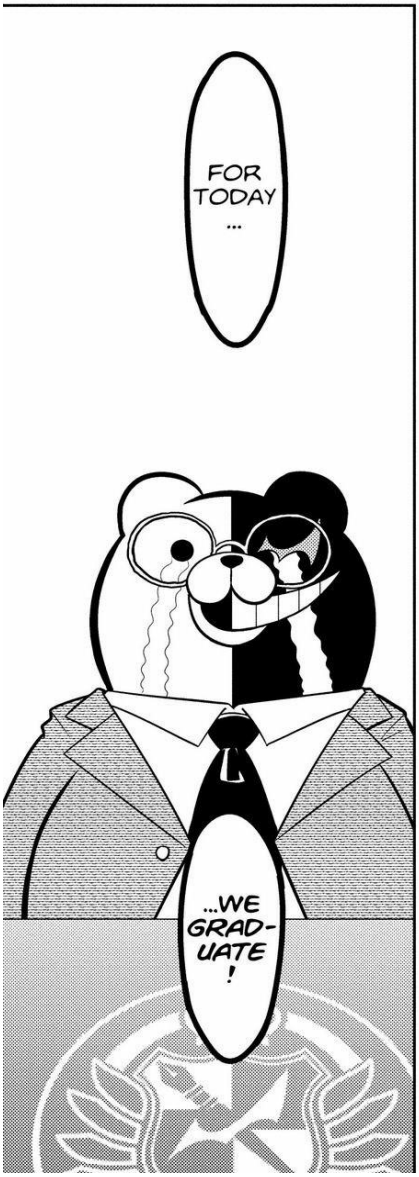
WE HAVE BEEN WAIT-ING...
...OH, WE HAVE BEEN WAITING.
WAITING INDEED... FOR PEASANTS SUCH AS YOUR-SELVES TO APPEAR BEFORE US!
bang!

ULTIMATE DESPAIR
JUNKO ENOSHIMA

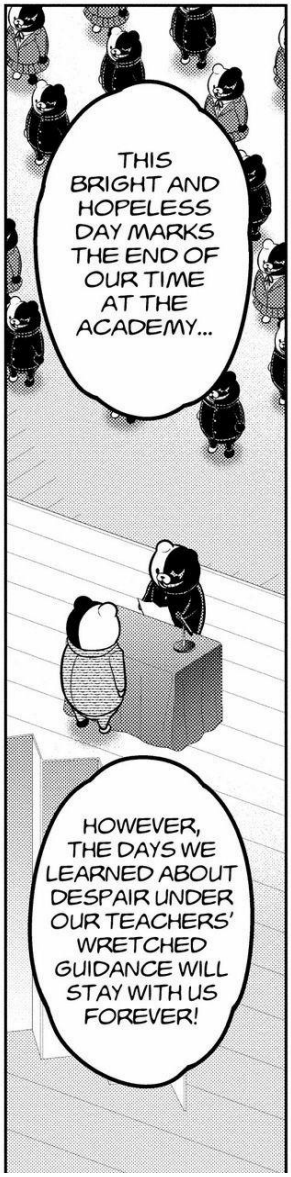
DANGANRONPA
A SCHOOL OF HOPE . . . WITH STUDENTS OF DESPAIR!
THE ANIMATION

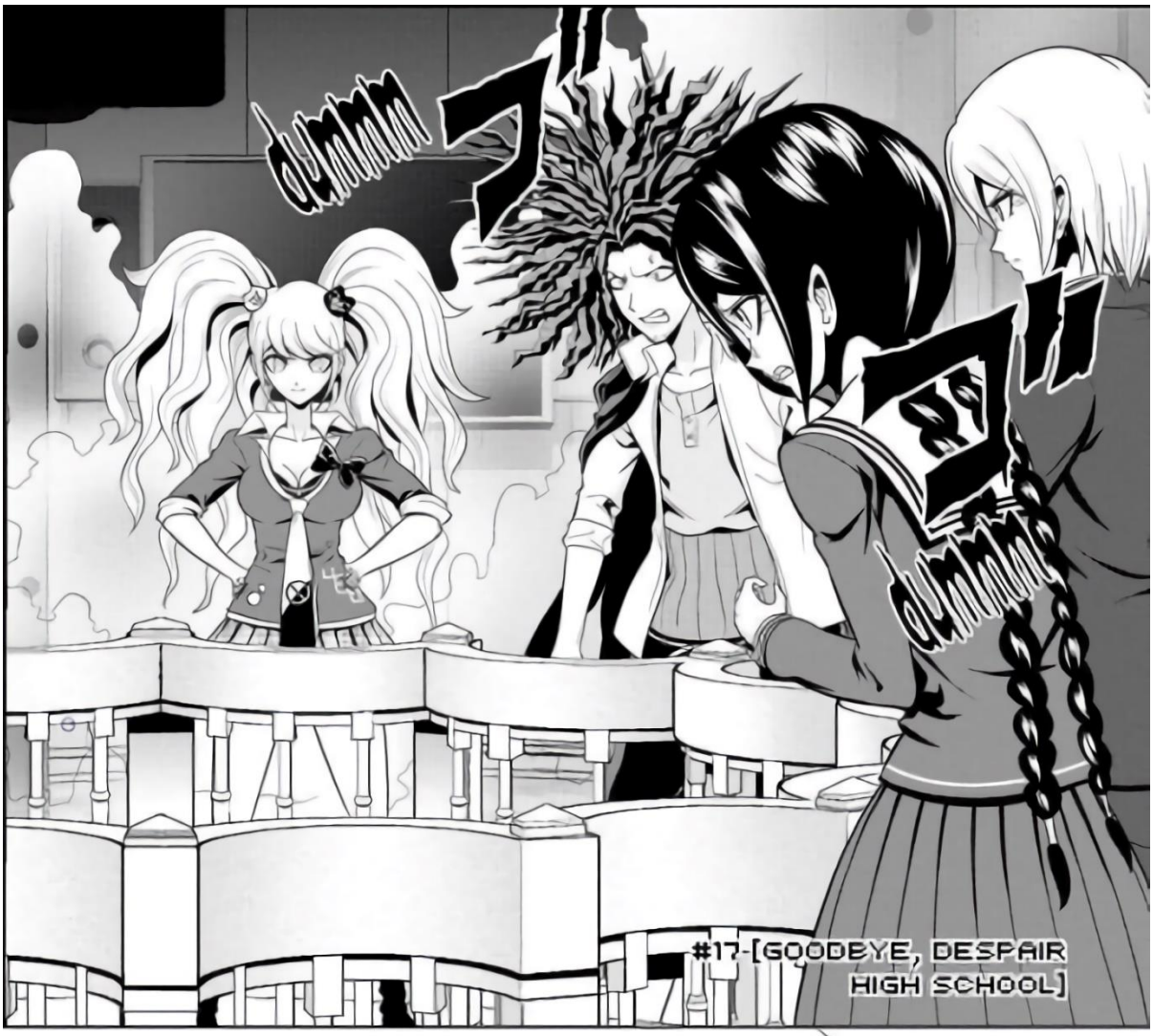
DANGANRONPA
A SCHOOL OF HOPE . . . WITH STUDENTS OF DESPAIR!
THE ANIMATION


COM-ING!
AND NOW ...
FOR OUR STU-DENT SPEAK-ER.


FOR TODAY ...
...WE GRAD-UATE!

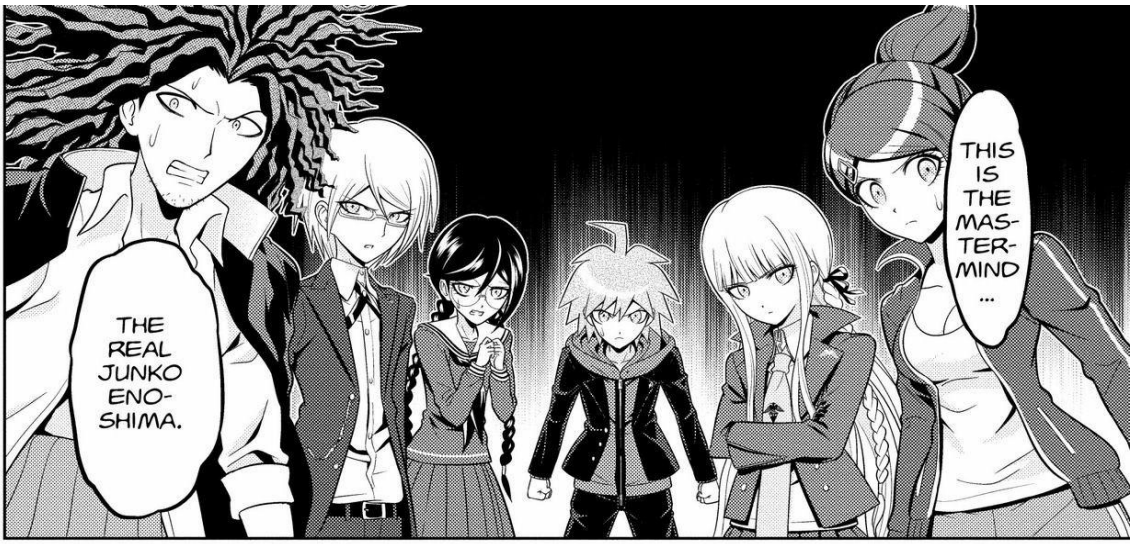
WE WERE ONLY ABLE TO WALLOW IN DESPAIR BECAUSE WE WERE IN THE MIDST OF IT!!
AND I'M CERTAIN THAT A HOPELESS SENSE OF DESPAIR WILL CONTINUE TO WEIGH DOWN UPON OUR HEARTS!!


THIS BRIGHT AND HOPELESS DAY MARKS THE END OF OUR TIME AT THE ACADEMY...
HOWEVER, THE DAYS WE LEARNED ABOUT DESPAIR UNDER OUR TEACHERS' WRETCHED GUIDANCE WILL STAY WITH US FOREVER!

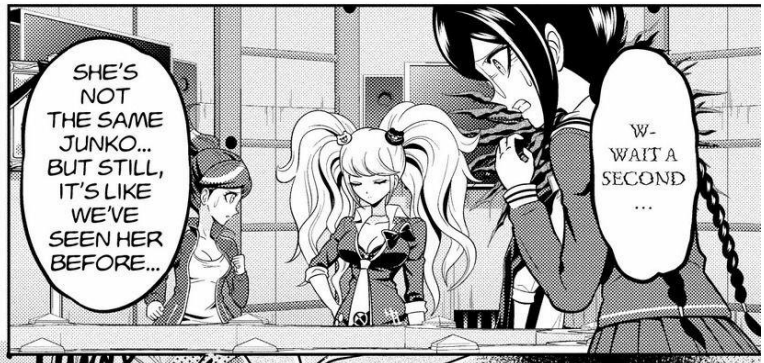

#17-[GOODBYE, DESPAIR HIGH SCHOOL]

...I'VE GOTTA ADMIT ...I...
...I'M FI-NALLY FREE...
...I GET SICK OF THINGS SO QUICK, HAVING TO CONTROL MONO-KUMA DAY IN AND DAY OUT...
...IT WAS BEYOND TORTUR-OUS! IT WAS OUTRIGHT SUICIDAL...

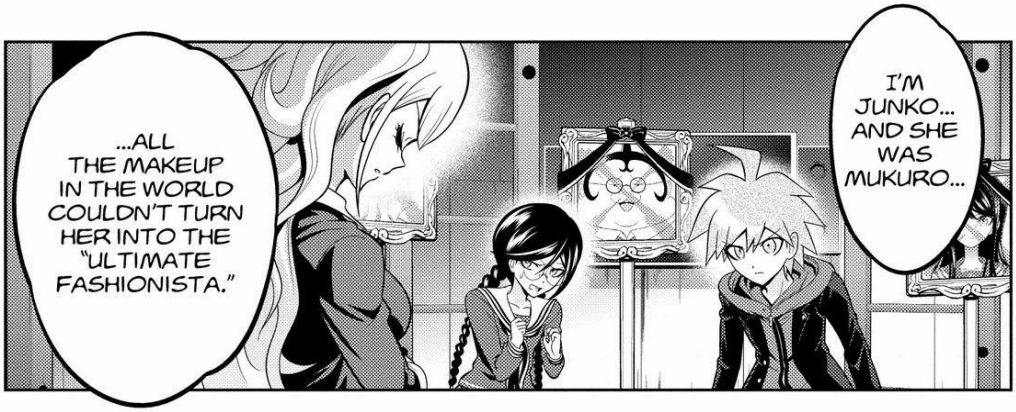
dummm
dummm
dummmm
...SWEAR TO US YOUR FEALTY, AND WE SHALL BEQUEATH HALF THE WORLD UNTO YOU!
...YES! WE HAVE BEEN WAITING, COMMONERS! AND NOW...
YES
NO
da-dummm!


THE REAL JUNKO ENO-SHIMA.
THIS IS THE MAS-TER-MIND ...

YES ...
...WE HAVE.

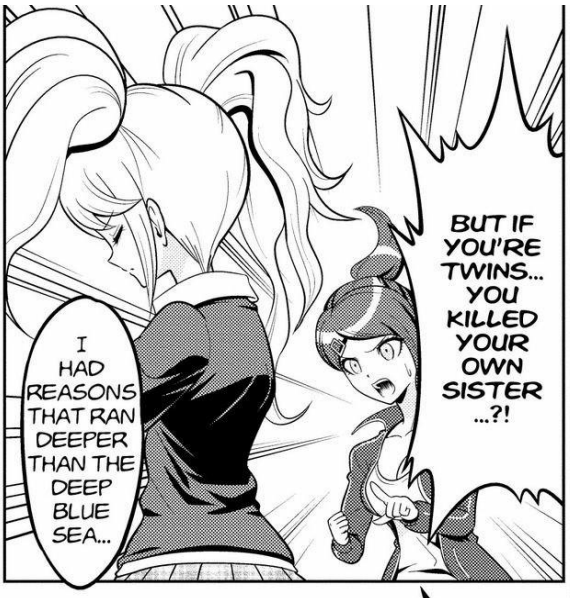

W-WAIT A SECOND ...
SHE'S NOT THE SAME JUNKO... BUT STILL, IT'S LIKE WE'VE SEEN HER BEFORE...

SHE WAS THE PER-SON...
...WE USED TO SEE IN ALL THOSE FASHION MAGA-ZINES BEFORE WE CAME TO THIS SCHOOL ...!
A-AND FOR ALL YOUR CLAIMS TO BE SOME SMUTTY FASHION MODEL, YOU CERTAINLY DON'T RE-SEMBLE THE PICTURES IN THE MAGA-ZINES...
NO WONDER WE NOTICED THE FAKE ENOSHIMA DIDN'T LOOK QUITE LIKE HER...
...WE WERE COM-PARING HER TO SOME-ONE ELSE!


...ALL THE MAKEUP IN THE WORLD COULDN'T TURN HER INTO THE "ULTIMATE FASHIONISTA."
I'M JUNKO... AND SHE WAS MUKURO...

We're known collectively as the Despair Sisters of "Ultimate Despair"!
I hate to say it, but our background story is a common trope... Bluntly put, Mukuro and I are twin sisters.

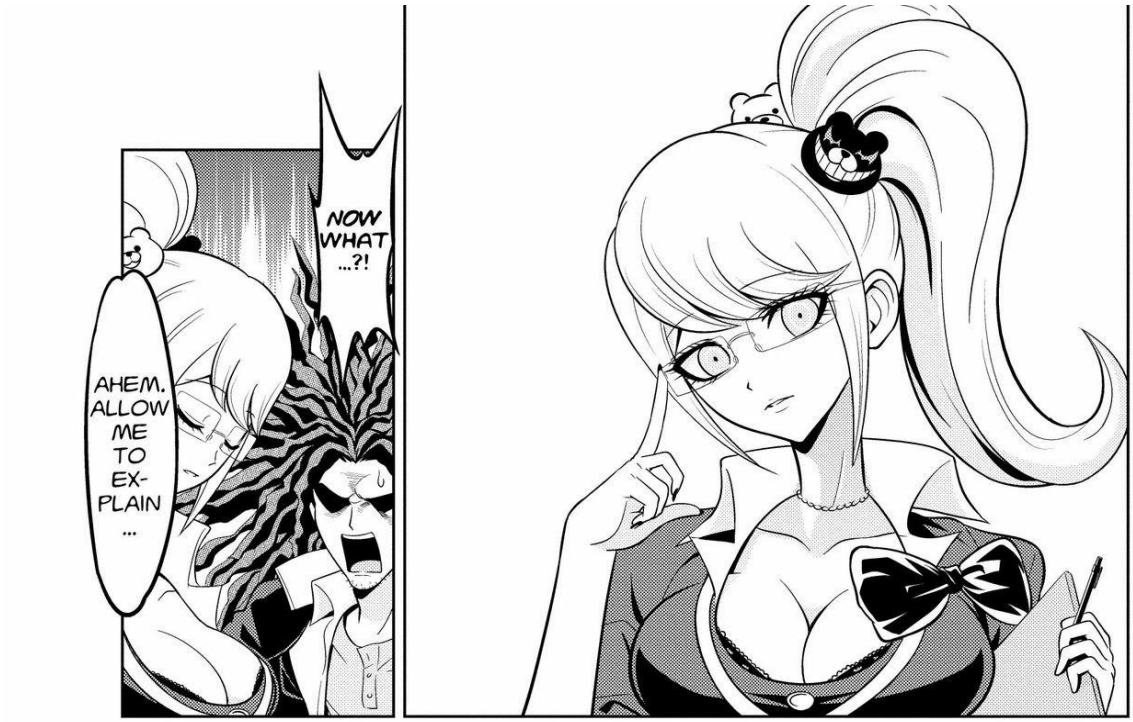
WHILE THE BRILLIANT AND ADORABLE YOUNGER-SISTER ROLE WENT TO MOI...
YOU HAD THE STEREOTYPICAL ATHLETIC OLDER SISTER, MUKURO.
dumm
dumm
dumm
dumm

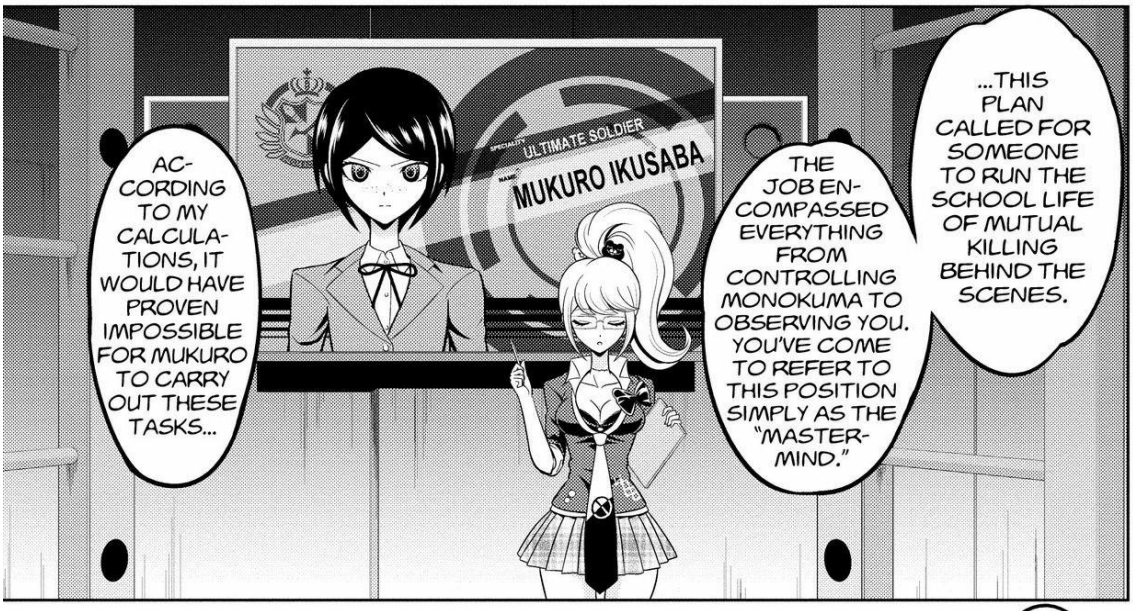

BUT IF YOU'RE TWINS... YOU KILLED YOUR OWN SISTER ...?!
I HAD REASONS THAT RAN DEEPER THAN THE DEEP BLUE SEA...

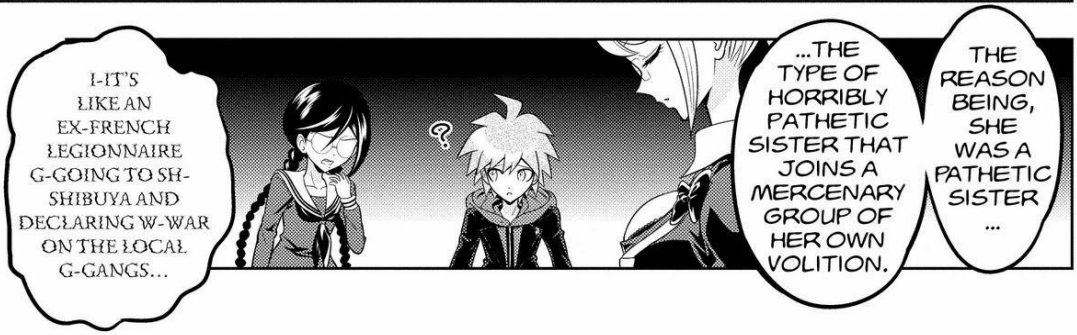
PSYCH! GOT YA!!!
n-nrun

WHOA, THERE! YER PERSONALITY'S JUMPIN' ALL OVER THE PLACE!!
YEAH? WELL, THAT'S 'CUZ I'M WOEFULLY QUICK TO GET SICK OF SHIT-- EVEN MY OWN PERSONALITY!

...JUNKO ENOO-SHIII-MAAA!
bang!!
HYA HA HA HA HA HA HA !!!


NOW WHAT ...?!
AHEM. ALLOW ME TO EX-PLAIN ...


...THIS PLAN CALLED FOR SOMEONE TO RUN THE SCHOOL LIFE OF MUTUAL KILLING BEHIND THE SCENES.
THE JOB EN-COMPASSED EVERYTHING FROM CONTROLLING MONOKUMA TO OBSERVING YOU. YOU'VE COME TO REFER TO THIS POSITION SIMPLY AS THE "MASTER-MIND."
ULTIMATE SOLDIER
MUKURO IKUSABA
AC-CORDING TO MY CALCULA-TIONS, IT WOULD HAVE PROVEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR MUKURO TO CARRY OUT THESE TASKS...

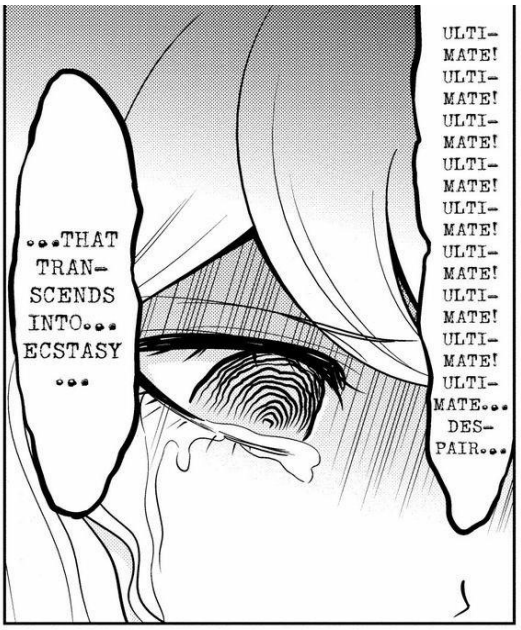

THE REASON BEING, SHE WAS A PATHETIC SISTER ...
...THE TYPE OF HORRIBLY PATHETIC SISTER THAT JOINS A MERCENARY GROUP OF HER OWN VOLITION.
?
I-IT'S LIKE AN EX-FRENCH LEGIONNAIRE G-GOING TO SH-SHIBUYA AND DECLARING W-WAR ON THE LOCAL G-GANGS...

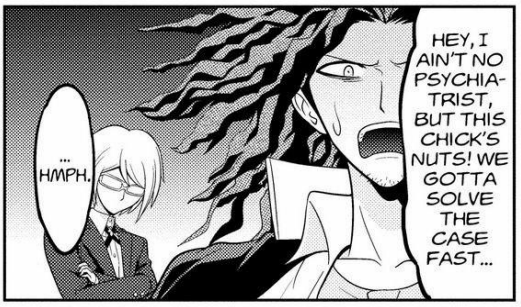
ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO LET AN APPEALING TITLE LIKE MY "ULTIMATE FASHIONISTA" GO TO WASTE ...
...SHE HAD ALL THREE CATEGORIES COVERED.
THE JURY WILL AGREE ...
HOPELESSLY UNFAIR!
HOPELESSLY LAME!
BUT FIRST I HAD TO CONTEND WITH MUKURO'S TITLE AS THE "ULTIMATE SOLDIER"...
AS SUCH, I GAVE HER THE SPOTLIGHT WHILE I CONTROLLED THINGS FROM BACKSTAGE.
HOPELESSLY CREEPY!

PRECISELY. ALAS...
THAT'S WHY YOU TRADED PLACES?

... ACCORDINGLY, I KILLED HER TO MEET THEIR EXPECTATIONS.
CONSIDERING HER UNFORTUNATE VISUAL APPEARANCE, A LARGE PORTION OF THE VIEWERS UNDOUBTEDLY EXPECTED HER TO DIE EARLY ON.
SHE WAS ABLE TO IMPERSONATE ME FAR LESS THAN I HAD ANTICIPATED... SHE TRULY WAS A LOST CAUSE.

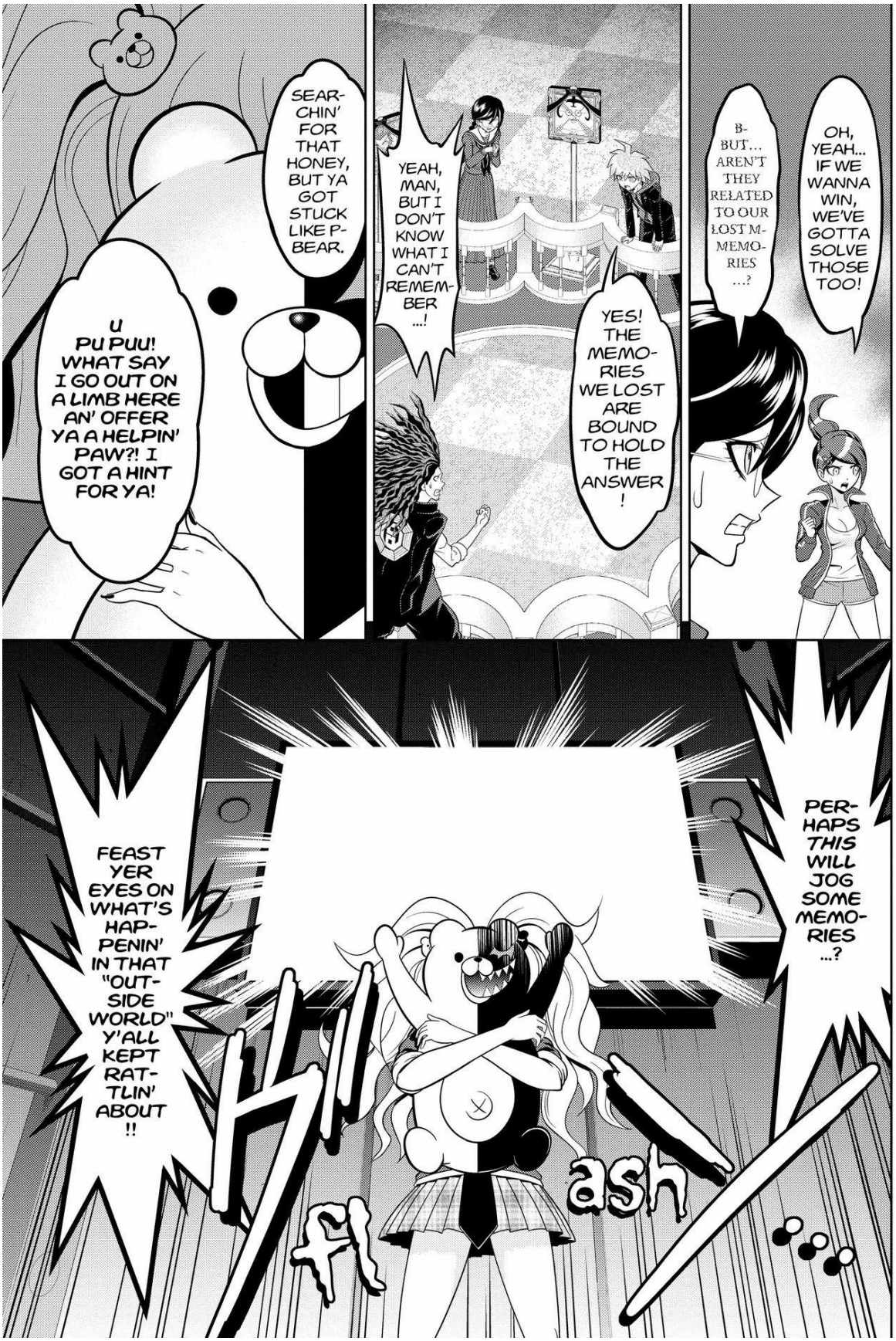
WHEN IKUSABA DIED, SHE WAS CLEARLY TAKEN BY SURPRISE.
I FIG-URED.
WAIT, WHA...
WHY... ...AM I...?
I kinda knew where things were headed after all that planning, ya know ?!
Besides! I was bored silly!
SOOOO, I mixed things up a bit by "making an example" out of Mukuroni!
HOW CAN YOU LIVE WITH YOURSELF AFTER KILLING YOUR OWN SISTER ...?!
Eeek! Misunder-standings are scawwy!
"Ultimate Despair" fit Sissy and me to a T, K?
We despaired for the world since the moment we were born!
Whether we kill or die, it's all the same to us...
...it's "just the way we are," y'know? And we can do anything because of it!
Waaah!

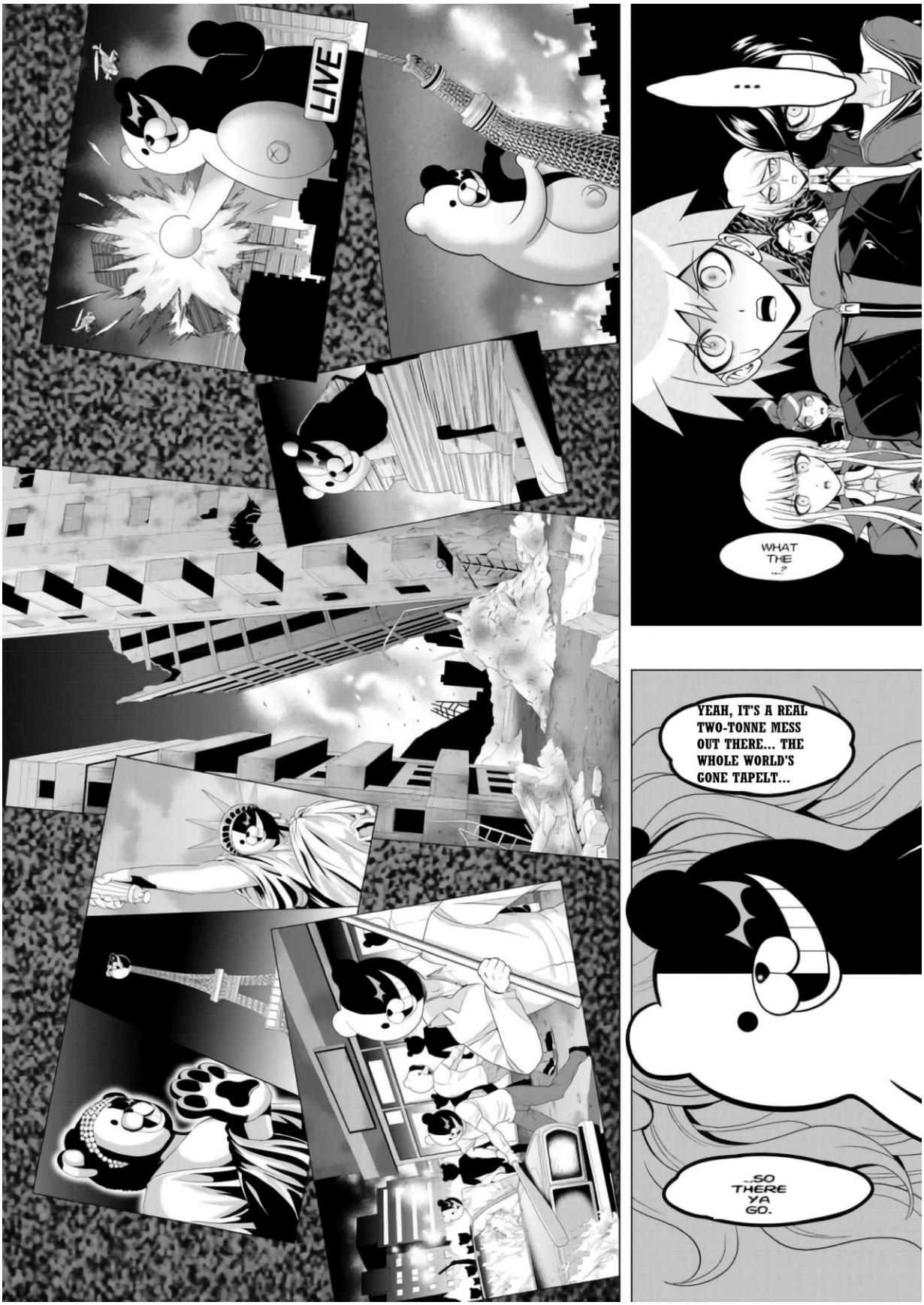

...THAT TRANSCENDS INTO... ECSTASY ...
ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE... DESPAIR...


... HMPH.
HEY, I AIN'T NO PSYCHIATRIST, BUT THIS CHICK'S NUTS! WE GOTTA SOLVE THE CASE FAST...

IS THIS A PATHETIC ATTEMPT TO DETER US FROM THE ALLEGED "SCHOOL MYSTERIES" ...?
HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO DRAG OUT YOUR INANE SELF-INTRODUCTION?

...THE DEATH OF MY BELOVED SISTER BY MY HAND...
THAT'S WHAT MAKES THIS SUCH A "TURN-ON" ...
...FILLS ME WITH DESPAIR... OVERWHELMING DESPAIR THAT COULD ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS "ULTIMATE"... ULTIMATE, ULTIMATE, ULTIMATE, ULTIMATE DESPAIR...NO, THAT'S NOT ENOUGH ULTIMATES...
ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE! ULTIMATE!


SEARCHIN' FOR THAT HONEY, BUT YA GOT STUCK LIKE P-BEAR.
U PU PUU! WHAT SAY I GO OUT ON A LIMB HERE AN' OFFER YA A HELPIN' PAW?! I GOT A HINT FOR YA!
YEAH, MAN, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN'T REMEMBER ...!
YES! THE MEMORIES WE LOST ARE BOUND TO HOLD THE ANSWER !
B-BUT... AREN'T THEY RELATED TO OUR LOST M-MEMORIES ...?
OH, YEAH... IF WE WANNA WIN, WE'VE GOTTA SOLVE THOSE TOO!
FEAST YER EYES ON WHAT'S HAPPENIN' IN THAT "OUTSIDE WORLD" Y'ALL KEPT RATTLIN' ABOUT !!
PERHAPS THIS WILL JOG SOME MEMORIES ...?
Fl ash


LIVE
...
WHAT THE ...?
YEAH, IT'S A REAL TWO-TONNE MESS OUT THERE... THE WHOLE WORLD'S GONE TAPELT...
...SO THERE YA GO.

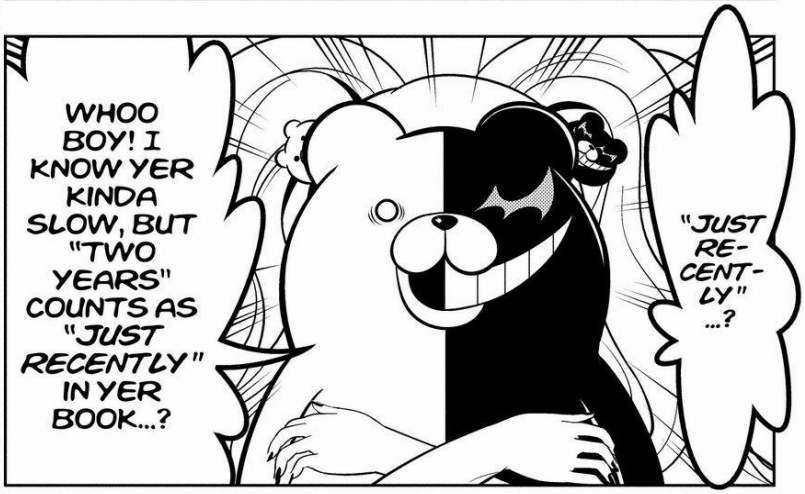
MAYBE GENO-CIDE JILL WOULD REMEM-BER ...?
WHAT?! YOU WANT ME TO SWITCH OUT WITH HER?! N-NO WAY! NEVER!
IF NO ONE REMEM-BERS, WE'RE DOOMED !
CLIPS FROM SOME MOVIE, RIGHT ...?
WAIT, WHAT ?! THAT DIDN'T CLEAR UP SQUAT !
YOUR SURPRIS-INGLY DOMESTIC SERIAL KILLER TAKES THE STAGE!!!
DUM-DUM-DUM... DA-DA-DA-DADA DUM-DUM-DUM !!
doom!
FUKAWA, YOU ARE OUR ONLY HOPE.
ACHOO!!
DAMN !!!
AH. THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE.
MY! IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU!
OH, ME? I'M THE MAS-TER-MIND ...
HEY! WHO ARE YOU ?!
ON THE TV ...
HUH?! WHAT VIDEOS ?!
ONLY SPEAK TO PROVIDE CLEAR AND CONCISE ANSWERS. DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE EVENTS IN THOSE VIDEOS?

THE TRAGEDY TOOK PLACE BACK A YEAR AGO...
IT WAS SO HUGE, IT WAS MORE LIKE A NATURAL DISASTER THAN ANYTHING MANMADE... THE WORLD FELL APART IN ITS WAKE...
THE BIGGEST, MOST AWFUL, MOST HOPELESS EVENT IN HUMAN HISTORY ...
... THAT TURNED THE WORLD ALL HIGGLY-WIGGLY...?
HEY! LOOK AT THE TV, OKAY ?!?
AYE AYE, CAP'N!
SO, HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BE-FORE ...?
W-WE NEED SOME ACTUAL DE-TAILS !
I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS! MISS GLOOM 'N' DOOM WATCHED IT IN REAL TIME, NOT ME!
EH? I'M ASKING YOU PRE-CISELY BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T KNOW...!
IF I HAD TO SAY, I DO RECOGNIZE THEM.
GO ON! WHAT HAP-PENED OUT THERE ?!
WHAT TYPE OF QUESTION IS THAT, MASTER BYAKUYA? HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE CATASTROPHE ?

HEY, CUT IT OUT. STOP SQUABBLING LIKE AN OLD MARRIED COUPLE. DOES IT REALLY MATTER HOW IT HAPPENED?
THE WORLD YOU KNEW IS OVER. THAT'S THE KEY POINT HERE.
PRE-POS-TER-OUS! THAT'S ABSURD!
MY WORLD CAN'T BE OVER! NOT SO LONG AS THE FATE OF THE WORLD...
...AND THE TOGAMI CORPOR-ATION ARE ONE AND THE SAME!
THERE ISN'T A SINGLE NATION THAT COULD RIVAL OUR MILITARY POWERS!
THE WORLD WILL NEVER FALL INTO RUIN SO LONG AS THE TOGAMI CORPORA-TION STANDS STRONG...!!
AND I'M TELLING YOU IT FELL... HARD.
I'VE CON-FIRMED THAT ALL YOUR FAMILY AND RELATIVES TIED TO IT ARE DEAD.
YOU CAN BEND OVER AND KISS YOUR TITLE AS THE "ULTIMATE AFFLUENT PROGENY" GOOD-BYE.
WHAT... ARE YOU SAYING...?!
I-I'VE HEARD ENOUGH OF YOUR... OFFENSIVE JOKES!

COME, NOW! HAVEN'T YOU PIECED TOGETHER THE HINTS THAT WE SO KINDLY DROPPED ...?
BRING THE MYSTERIES SURROUNDING THIS SCHOOL TO LIGHT...!

DAMN STRAIGHT! HOW COULD THE WORLD HAVE ENDED A WHOPPIN' YEAR AGO?! WE CAME HERE JUST RECENTLY !!
Yeah? You think I'm crazy ?
HEY, HOLD UP! YOU'VE SPOUT-ED OUT A WHOLE BUNCH OF CRAZY STUFF!


WHOO BOY! I KNOW YER KINDA SLOW, BUT "TWO YEARS" COUNTS AS "JUST RECENTLY" IN YER BOOK...?
"JUST RE-CENT-LY" ...?

...Y'ALL ENROLLED AT HOPE'S PEAK ACADEMY TWO YEARS AGO...!
OR MAYBE IT'S YER SENSE OF TIME...

...the memories that we've lost...!
That's impos-sible... I don't believe it...but... but if that's true...

TWO YEARS AGO
THE MEMORIES WE'VE LOST... THEY...
...THEY COVERED THE PAST TWO YEARS OF OUR LIVES AT THIS SCHOOL...!!

ONE YEAR AGO
I blacked out right after I took my first step onto the school grounds...
wobble
...Then I woke up with my head on a desk in a classroom...
...?
Two years passed between those moments...
...That's where my memories were spliced...!

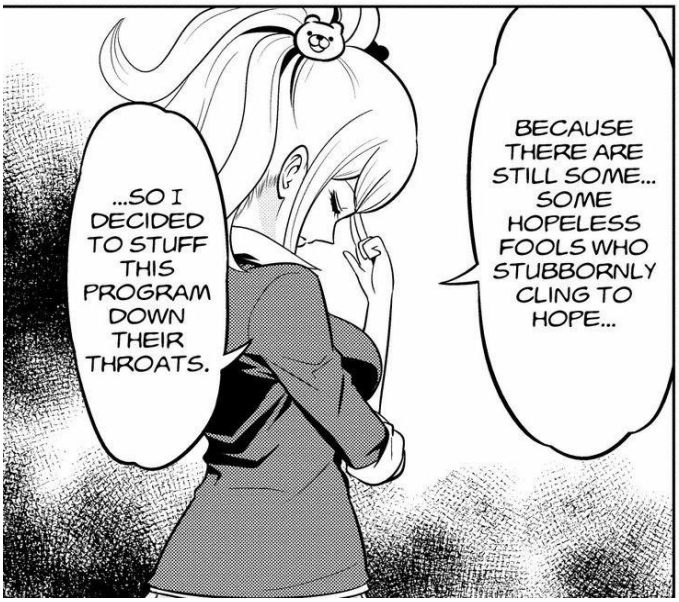
IT NEARLY ANNIHILATED THE ENTIRE HOPE'S PEAK ACADEMY STUDENT BODY... YOU WERE THE ONLY SURVIVORS.
...BUT IT DIDN'T LAST. THE "TRAGEDY" HAPPENED A YEAR AFTER YOUR ENROLLMENT.
YOUR FIRST YEAR HERE BRIMMED WITH HOPE AND PEACE...

...TO PROTECT THE SURVIVING STUDENTS!
AND THUS! HOPE'S PEAK ACADEMY INITIATED ITS SHELTER PLAN...

SO THAT'S WHY THE HEADMASTER ASKED US IF WE WOULD BE WILLING TO SPEND THE REMAINDER OF OUR YEARS INSIDE THE ACADEMY...
...HE WAS TRYING TO PROTECT US!!

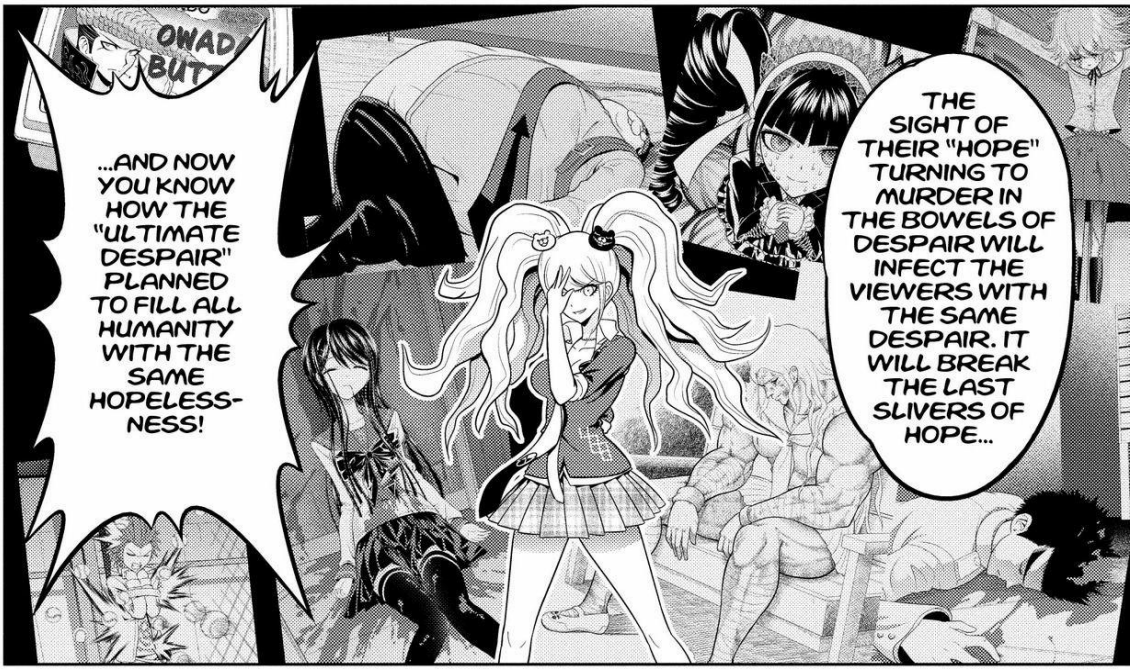
THE VERY SHELTER MEANT TO PROTECT YA...
...BECAME AN INESCAPABLE "CAGE" FILLED WITH DESPAIR...
...THAT "ULTIMATE DESPAIR" HAD ALREADY INFILTRATED HIS SCHOOL !!
BUT IT WAS ALSO THE HEADMASTER'S BIGGEST BOO-BOO!
U PU PUU... AIN'T IT BEARLARIOUS? YOU SEE, HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW...

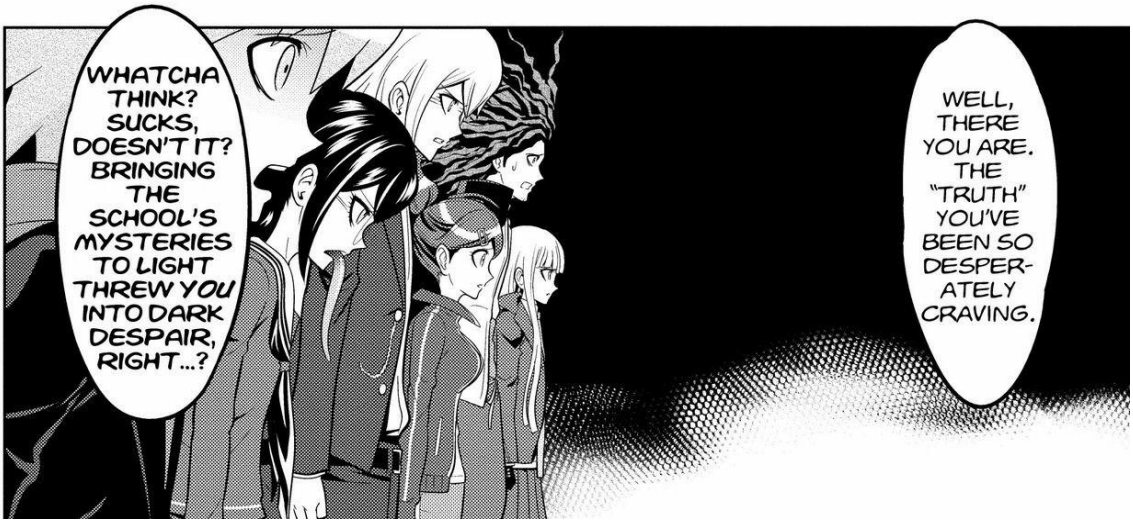
...THAT'S THE ENTIRE REASON WHY MUKURO AND I CHOSE THIS SCHOOL TWO YEARS AGO.
IT WAS THE IDEAL SETTING FOR THE SCHOOL LIFE OF MUTUAL KILLING...


BECAUSE THERE ARE STILL SOME... SOME HOPELESS FOOLS WHO STUBBORNLY CLING TO HOPE...
...SO I DECIDED TO STUFF THIS PROGRAM DOWN THEIR THROATS.

YOU KEPT US ALIVE FOR THIS DUMB SHOW...?
WHY... GO SO FAR ...?

I WANTED THE MASSES TO WATCH AS THEIR SYMBOLS OF HOPE MURDERED THEIR FELLOW STUDENTS AT THIS ACADEMY...
MM-HMM, YEP. YOU'VE GOT IT.
THAT'S WHY YOU HI-JACKED THE MEDIA ...?

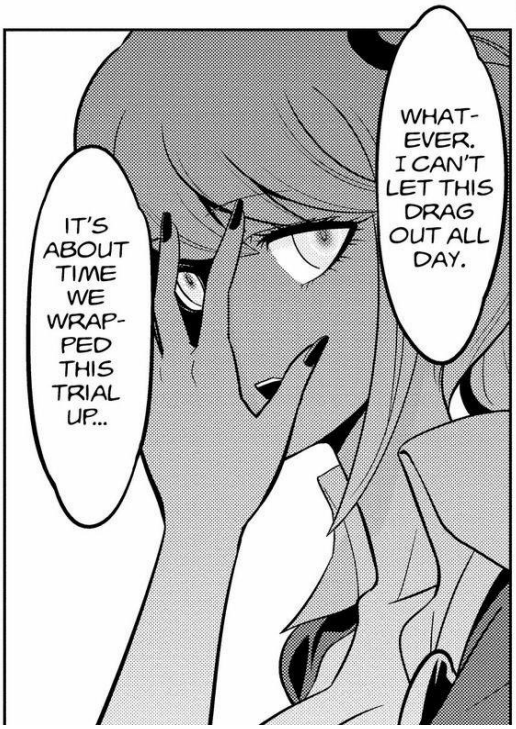

...AND NOW YOU KNOW HOW THE "ULTIMATE DESPAIR" PLANNED TO FILL ALL HUMANITY WITH THE SAME HOPELESS-NESS!
THE SIGHT OF THEIR "HOPE" TURNING TO MURDER IN THE BOWELS OF DESPAIR WILL INFECT THE VIEWERS WITH THE SAME DESPAIR. IT WILL BREAK THE LAST SLIVERS OF HOPE...


WHATCHA THINK? SUCKS, DOESN'T IT? BRINGING THE SCHOOL'S MYSTERIES TO LIGHT THREW YOU INTO DARK DESPAIR, RIGHT...?
WELL, THERE YOU ARE. THE "TRUTH" YOU'VE BEEN SO DESPER-ATELY CRAVING.

SO NOW YA BEG.
YER WASTIN' YOUR BREATH.
I GET HOW INCRED-IBLE YOU ARE, OKAY?! I'LL DO ANY-THING! JUST DON'T KILL ME!!
P-PLEASE! SPARE ME!!
HAGA-KURE?!
...EVEN ANTICI-PATED WE WOULD SOLVE THE MYS-TERIES...?
DON'T TELL ME... YOU...
AND WITHOUT A REASON, Y'ALL CAN'T SEE WHERE I'M COMIN' FROM. WITHOUT IT, Y'ALL CAN'T OPPOSE ME!
'CUZ I'M ONLY INTER-ESTED IN DESPAIR.
CAN'T SAY THERE'S ANY REA-SON FOR IT.
...THIS CAN'T BE... THE TRUTH!
I... HAVEN'T SEEN ANY OF THIS WITH MY OWN EYES...
HUH?
WE'VE LISTENED TO YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY, BUT IN ALL GOOD CON-SCIENCE... I CAN'T VOUCH THAT IT'S TRUE.
HOLD UP.

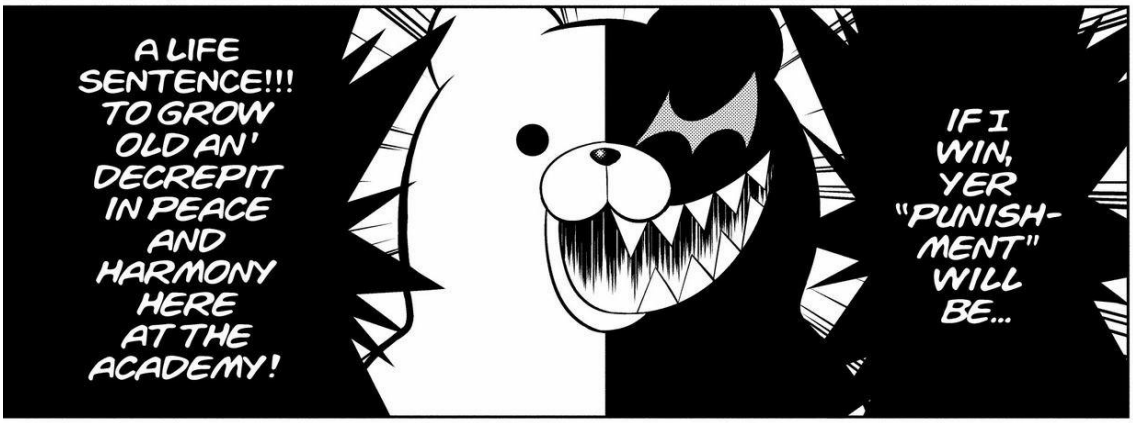
BULL! YOU STOLE OUR MEMORIES, FABRICATED MOTIVES, AND PUSHED THEM TO THE BRINK...YOU SLAUGHTERED THEM!
I DID NOT TAKE THEIR LIVES. I SIMPLY NUDGED YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

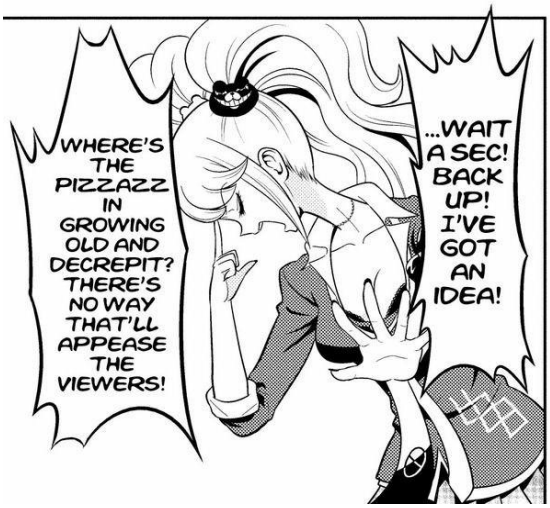
IS THAT HOW YOU FIND HOPE?
I'M IMPRESSED. YOU CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO SHIFT THE BLAME.


IT'S ABOUT TIME WE WRAPPED THIS TRIAL UP...
WHATEVER. I CAN'T LET THIS DRAG OUT ALL DAY.

...AND EVEN IF YOU WERE TELLING THE TRUTH... I DON'T WANT TO SUBMIT TO YOU...I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO YOU!
NOT ONLY FOR US, BUT FOR EVERYONE YOU'VE KILLED!!

Y'ALL REPRE-SENT HOPE! I REPRE-SENT DESPAIR! Y'ALL GOTTA VOTE TO DECIDE WHICH SIDE OUGHTA GET "PUNISHED"!
BUT HERE'S THE CATCH! IF EVEN ONE OF YA VOTES AGAINST HOPE, I WIN AND GET TA "PUNISH" THE WHOLE LOT OF YA!!!
AN' SEEIN' AS HOW IT'S THE BIG FINALE, I'VE DECIDED TO CHANGE THE RULES!
VOTIN' T-I-I-I-I-MMMEEE!!!


A LIFE SENTENCE!!! TO GROW OLD AN' DECREPIT IN PEACE AND HARMONY HERE AT THE ACADEMY!
IF I WIN, YER "PUNISH-MENT" WILL BE...


WHERE'S THE PIZZAZZ IN GROWING OLD AND DECREPIT? THERE'S NO WAY THAT'LL APPEASE THE VIEWERS!
...WAIT A SEC! BACK UP! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

SHE'D LET US LIVE? WOW! NOT KILLING SOME-ONE? MIND BLOWN!
YOU MEAN WE'D GET TO STAY HERE?
WHAT?!

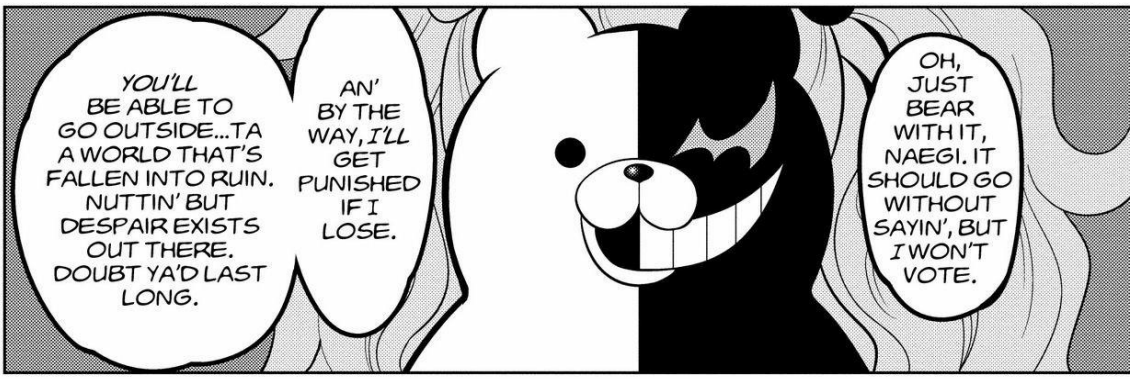
THAT DOES IT! I'LL GIVE ONE OF YOU A TOTALLY INSANE PUNISH-MENT !!!
AND THE HONOR GOES TO YOU, NAEGI ...!!!

You keep, like, speaking out against me!
Um, 'cuz I hate you ...?!
...THE REST OF YOU SHITS GET TA SUR-VIVE !!!
fwoom!
...AND IF YOU THROW MAESI TO THE DOGS ...
...W-WHY ME...?
They... they wouldn't ...
I-if they sacrifice me ...?

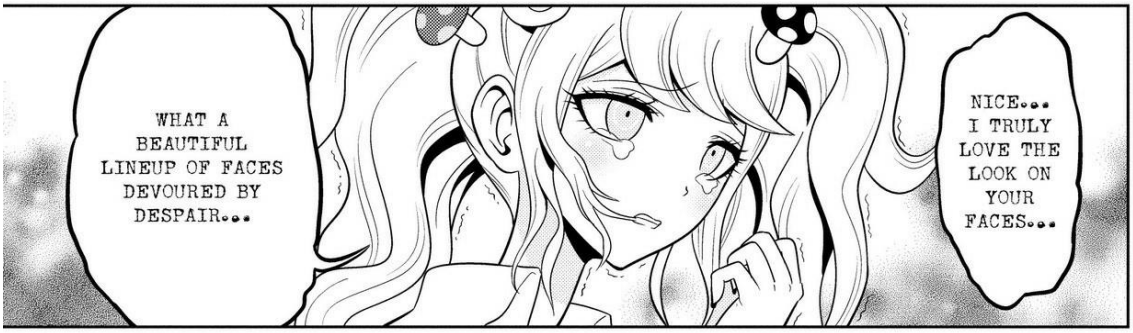
If...If I...die...
If...If I...die...

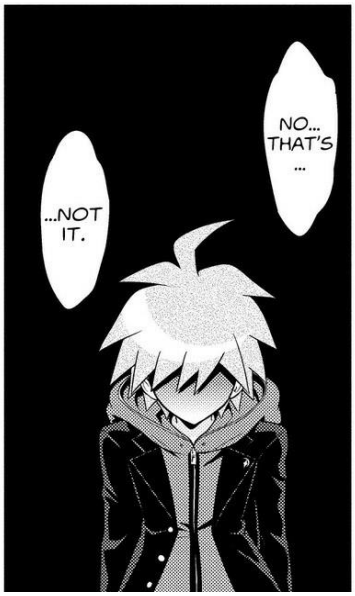
N-NO...!
If they... sacrifice me...If I...die...

HEY, YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD, NAEGI.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? LOST YER CONFI-DENCE? DON'T TRUST YER FRIENDS?


OH, JUST BEAR WITH IT, NAEGI. IT SHOULD GO WITHOUT SAYIN', BUT I WON'T VOTE.
AN' BY THE WAY, I'LL GET PUNISHED IF I LOSE.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GO OUTSIDE...TA A WORLD THAT'S FALLEN INTO RUIN. NUTTIN' BUT DESPAIR EXISTS OUT THERE. DOUBT YA'D LAST LONG.

EVEN THE AIR'S PRETTY BAD NOW.
CONTAMI-NATED. IT'S GETTING HARD TO BREATHE FOR THE SURVI-VORS.
OF COURSE, THE ACADEMY'S SEALED, AND WE'VE GOT A FILTRATION SYSTEM...BUT IF I DIE, IT AUTOMATICALLY SHUTS DOWN.


WHAT A BEAUTIFUL LINEUP OF FACES DEVOURED BY DESPAIR...
NICE... I TRULY LOVE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACES...


NO... THAT'S ...
...NOT IT.

Naegi, it's looking bad! Bad, bad, bad! ☆
So, like, who do you think is gonna fall into despair? Whose despair is gonna sentence you to death?

THERE ISN'T JUST DEATH AND DESPAIR HERE...
YOU DON'T SEE IT.

WE CAN FIND HOPE IN OUR FRIENDS !!
...WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER !!

...I'll infect everyone with my inner hope!!
HOPE
If despair is contagious...

...ALONG WITH YOU...AND ALL YOUR STUPID "HOPE" SHIT!
NOT THAT IT MATTERS. IT'S PAST TIME TO PUT AN END TO THIS...
LAME. STILL TRYING TO DIG IN YOUR HEELS ?

HAGA-KURE, FORTUNE-TELLING ONLY PLACES SIGNS ON THE ROAD OF LIFE.
ISN'T IT IMPOR-TANT TO STILL FOLLOW THE PATH THAT YOU WANT ?!

I DUN-NO, MAN ...
MY R-READING ACTU-ALLY SAYS THAT WE SHOULD STAY...

N-NA-EGS ...

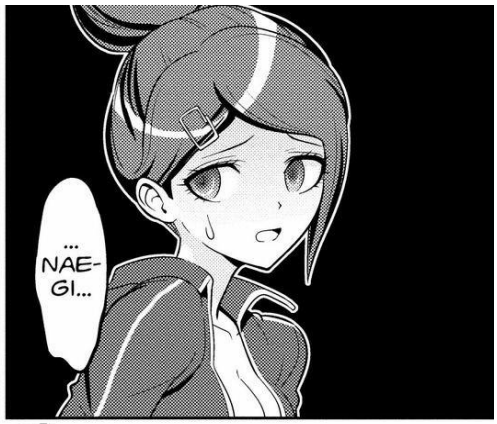
bang!
HOPE
YOU EXPRESSED A STRONGER DESIRE TO LIVE THAN ANYONE! AND YOU'RE NOT REALLY LIVING IF YOU BEND TO THE MASTER-MIND'S WILL!!

I'M GONNA GO WITH MY GUT FEEL-INGS, CARE-FULLY PRO-TECTED BY MY HARA-MAKI !!
I DON'T CARE WHAT MY READ-ING SAYS !
bam!

SO I...I WAN-NA LEAVE THIS PLACE FAR BE-HIND !!
I STILL WANNA LIVE! I WANNA OPEN THE NEXT DOOR !!
UWOOOO!!!

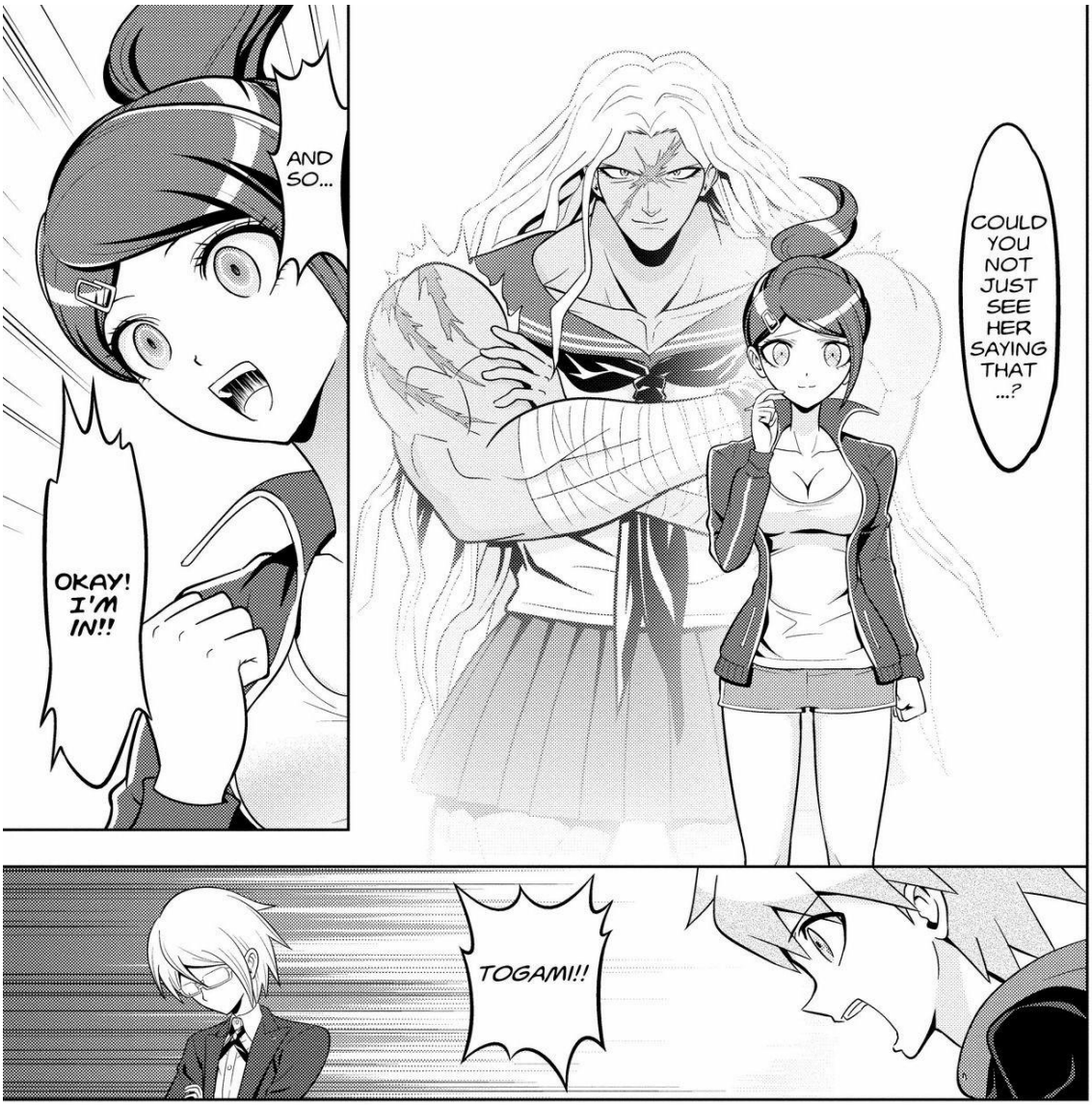
UGH ...

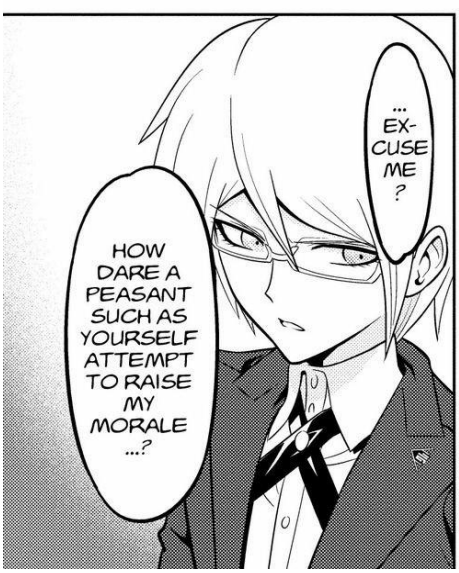
WE'VE GOTTA DO MORE THAN JUST SURVIVE...
ASA-HINA!


...NAE-GI...

bang!
HOPE
...WE BEAR THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF EVERYONE WE'VE LOST!

ME.
WHAT... WOULD SAKURA SAY... IF SHE WERE HERE...?
AND I HEARD THE WORDS... "THE ONLY WAY TO SEIZE STRENGTH IS BY FACING ADVERSITY! THEREFORE, I SHALL TREAD THE PATH OF THORNS!!"
ASAHINA... FORGIVE ME... MANY A TIME, I NIGH VENTURED TO CONFIDE IN YOU...
I... SAID TO MY-SELF ...


AND SO...
OKAY! I'M IN!!
COULD YOU NOT JUST SEE HER SAYING THAT ...?
TOGAMI!!


... EX-CUSE ME ?
HOW DARE A PEASANT SUCH AS YOURSELF ATTEMPT TO RAISE MY MORALE ...?

EVEN IF IT IS TRUE... EVEN IF THERE WAS A DISAS-TER... THERE'S STILL A WORLD OUT THERE!
FIGHT TO RE-CLAIM WHAT YOU'VE LOST !

bang!
THE PROUD BYAKUYA TOGAMI I KNOW WOULD NEVER ADMIT DEFEAT AT THIS POINT IN THE GAME!
HOPE
THAT'S THE SPIRIT ...
HMPH... HOW AB-SURD ...
...I DON'T RECALL SUBMITTING TO DESPAIR TO BEGIN WITH.
I CAN ALWAYS USE MY OWN ASSETS TO REBUILD THE TOGAMI LEGACY ...
...AND IT SHALL BE GREAT-ER THAN EVER BE-FORE.
bam!
FUR-THER-MORE, I KNOW THE TOGAMI FAMILY HASN'T FALLEN ...
...FOR I AM STILL ALIVE.
MASTER BYAKUYA ...!

FUKA...
GYA HA HA HA HA!!
IT'S ALL THE SAME TO ME! IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO WHICH SIDE SOUNDS LIKE MORE FUNNN!

DESPITE HOW I LOOK, I'VE HATED GOIN' TO SCHOOL WITH A PASSION!
WAIT A SEC! HOW DO YOU THINK I LOOK, ANYWAY?! KYA HA HA HA!!
OH! BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, MASTER BYAKUYA HAS TO COME WITH US!

I COULD LIVE ANY-WHERE...
...IF I HAD MASTER BYA-KUYA'S LOVE!
da-da-dum!

THEN YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK.
SO SADISTIC!
Fuka-wa...
ビッ flick!

...KIRI-GIRI!

KIRI...
...GIRI ...?

THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE, NAE-GI.
YOUR SO-CALLED "HOPE" WON'T REACH HER...
...HER FATHER WANTS HER TO STAY.
WHAT ...?

YOU KNOW WHY KIRIGIRI CAME TO HOPE'S PEAK ACADEMY, DON'T YOU...?
...DIDN'T SHE COME TO SEE HER FATHER AGAIN...?
SHE'S LONGED TO SEE HIM EVER SINCE SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL...
NAEGI, YOU COULDN'T BEGIN TO IMAGINE THE COUNTLESS TRIALS SHE FACED ALONG THE WAY...
...BUT SHE REMAINED SO DETERMINED...
...TO SEE THE FATHER SHE LOATHED SO MUCH...
...THAT HE HAD BECOME THE CENTER OF HER UNIVERSE.

"...it's a school of hope."

"As far as Kirigiri is concerned...

HE MADE THIS SCHOOL INTO A SHELTER FOR HER!!

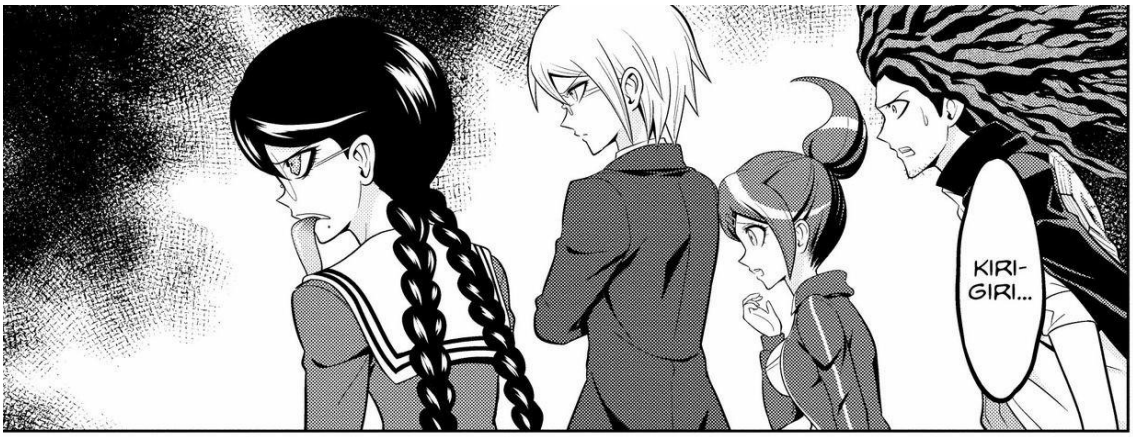
BUT THAT VERY FATHER IS PROTECTING HER!

HE WANTS HIS BELOVED DAUGHTER TO SURVIVE ...

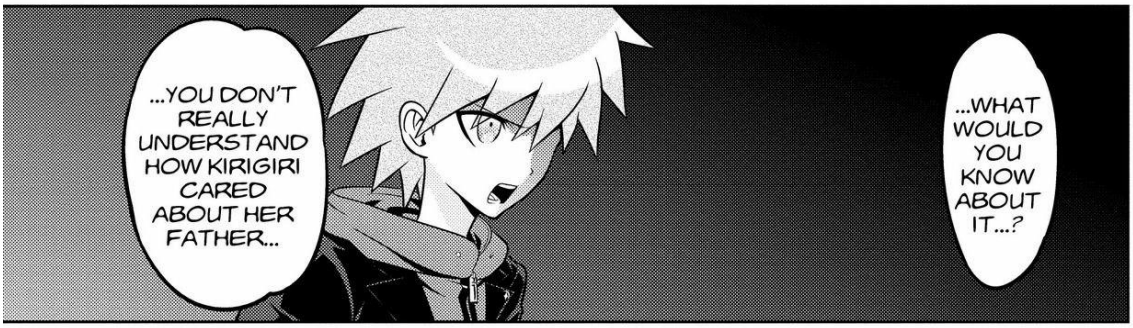
THAT'S ALL HE ASKS FOR...

...IS THIS A SCHOOL OF DESPAIR ?

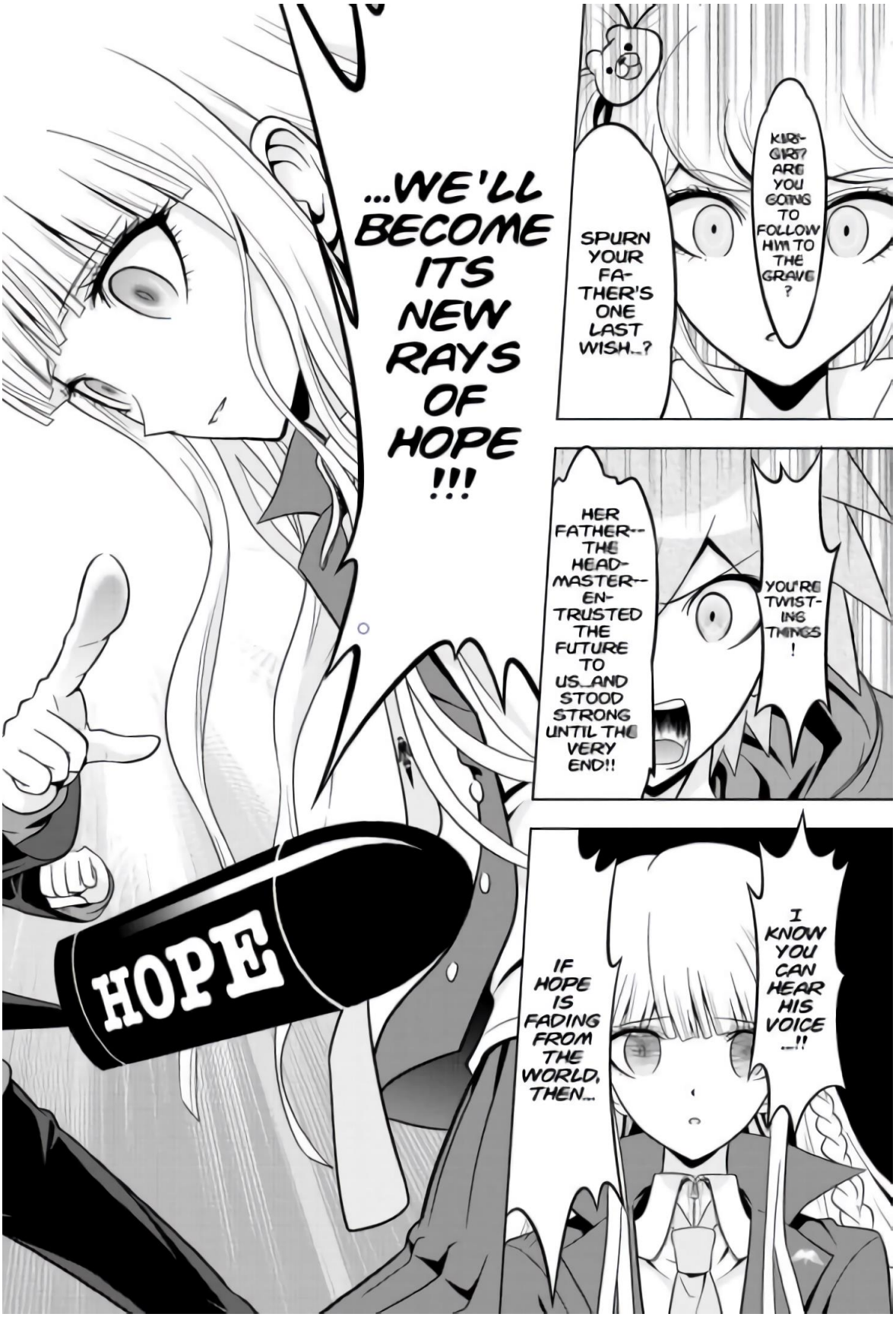
COURSE NOT!


KIRI-GIRI...

NO...


...YOU DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND HOW KIRIGIRI CARED ABOUT HER FATHER...
...WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT IT...?

THERE'S NO WAY HE'D WANT US TO LIVE HERE...IF IT MEANT LOSING HOPE!!!
...AND YOU COULD NEVER UNDER-STAND HOW HER FATHER CARED !!


KIRS-GIRS? ARE YOU GOING TO FOLLOW HIM TO THE GRAVE?
SPURN YOUR FA-THER'S ONE LAST WISH...?
YOU'RE TWIST-ING THINGS!
HER FATHER--THE HEAD-MASTER--EN-TRUSTED THE FUTURE TO US...AND STOOD STRONG UNTIL THE VERY END!!
I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR HIS VOICE...!!
IF HOPE IS FADING FROM THE WORLD, THEN...
...WE'LL BECOME ITS NEW RAYS OF HOPE!!!
HOPE

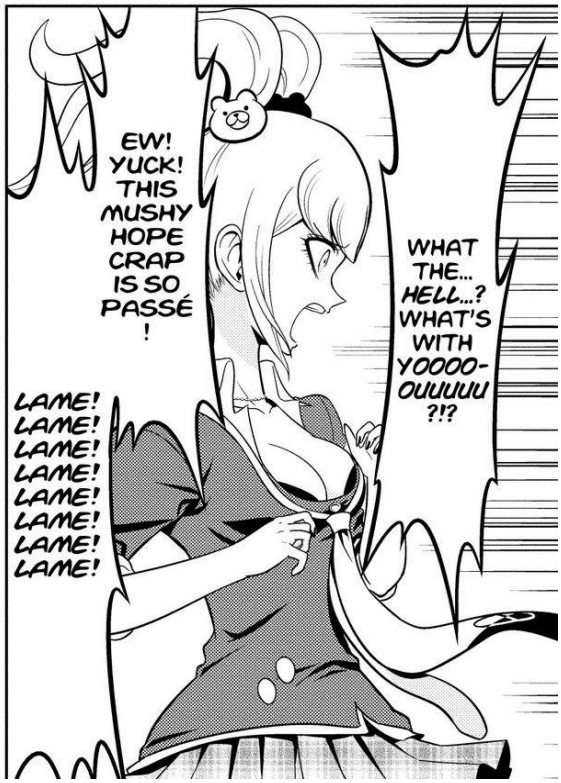
bang!
DON'T LOSE IT!!
...I...

I... DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT MY FA-THER.
SO I HAVE NO IDEA HOW HE FELT.
BUT... I'M CONFIDENT MY FATHER...OR AT LEAST MY BIOLOGICAL FATHER...
...WOULD NEVER TELL ME TO STAY... IF IT MEANT ABANDONING NAEGI TO HIS FATE...
...I'M NOT SURE WHY, BUT I CAN SAY THAT... WITHOUT A SHADOW OF A DOUBT.
PERHAPS THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE...

...
NEVER MIND.
BY THE WAY, NAEGI..
...I DON'T BELIEVE YOU CAME TO THIS SCHOOL DUE TO BEING "LUCKY" OR "UNLUCKY."
YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE FOR ANOTHER REASON ALTOGETHER.
THE WAY YOU'VE CONFRONTED THE "ULTIMATE DESPAIR"...
...AND STOOD YOUR GROUND AGAINST DESPAIR TO THE VERY END.. MAKES YOU..

...THE "ULTIMATE HOPE."
I BELIEVE THAT SHOULD BE YOUR TRUE TITLE.
ULTIMATE HOPE

WE WON'T LOSE !!
NOT AS LONG AS WE HAVE "HOPE" !!!


WHAT THE... HELL...? WHAT'S WITH YOOOO-OUUUUU ?!?
EW! YUCK! THIS MUSHY HOPE CRAP IS SO PASSÉ !
LAME! LAME! LAME! LAME! LAME! LAME! LAME! LAME!

WHAT THE HEEELLLLLLLLL ?!?
NO... WAY ...!
It's because...
...you're just a little more optimistic than the average person.
Naegi...
You weren't highly talented...nor was hope ever given to you as a gift...
Yet you were the only one who never fell into despair.

HOPE PUSHES US FORWARDS !!!

I LOST ...?
HUH...? SAY WHAT ...?

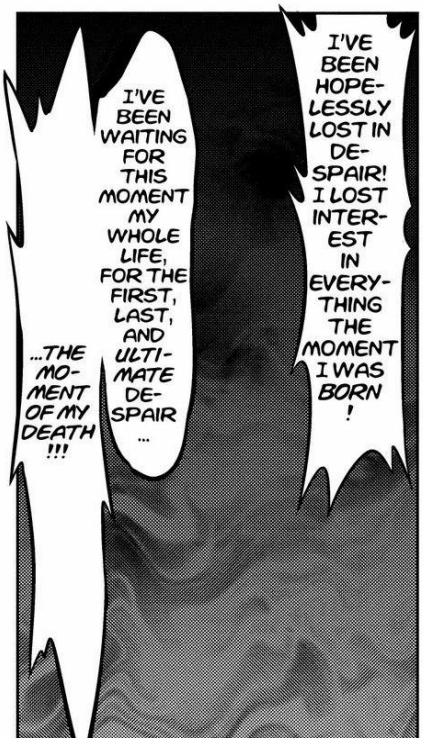
...THAT'S, LIKE... SERIOUSLY ...?!?
N-NO WAY ...
ME...? LOSE ...?

THERE'S NO TALKING YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS!
G-GOT A PROBLEM WITH THE VERDICT ...?!
... SWEET !!

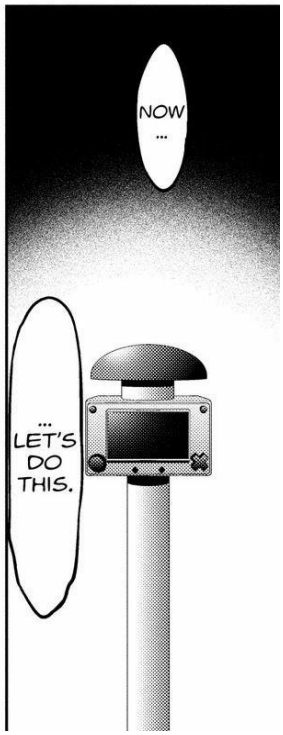
EH...?
THIS... THIS IS DE-SPAIR...!
I INFILTRATED THE ACADEMY TWO YEARS AGO...DEVISED AN INTRICATE PLAN...AND KILLED MY OWN SISTER...
...ONLY TO FAIL AT THE VERY END!
THIS IS... ULTI-MATE DE-SPAIR!
I COULD NOT BE HAPPIER THAN IN THE THROES OF ULTI-MATE DE-SPAIR...!!
W-WHAT ARE YOU TALK-ING AB-OUT?
ANY-WAY, DOES THIS MEAN YOU ACCEPT DEFEAT...?
AHA... AHA HA HA! DEFEAT...? YOU DON'T GET IT! WIN OR LOSE, IT'S ALL THE SAME TO ME...!
THERE IS DE-SPAIR EITHER WAY...
...AND RE-GARD-LESS OF HOW THIS ENDS, THE ONLY THING WAITING FOR YOU IS DE-SPAIR AS WELL...!

NOT AS LONG AS WE LOOK UPON IT WITH HOPE IN OUR EYES!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T GET IT. WE AREN'T AFRAID TO FACE DESPAIR ANY-MORE.

NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU PUSH AHEAD...NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU RUN.
...I TELL YOU NOW, THEY'RE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN. WHEREVER "HOPE" EXISTS, "DESPAIR" IS SURE TO BE FOUND...IT WILL BE THERE.
EW, GIVE ME A BREAK. I HATE THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACES...


I'VE BEEN HOPE-LESSLY LOST IN DE-SPAIR! I LOST INTER-EST IN EVERY-THING THE MOMENT I WAS BORN!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT MY WHOLE LIFE, FOR THE FIRST, LAST, AND ULTI-MATE DE-SPAIR...
...THE MO-MENT OF MY DEATH!!!

WAIT! I-I... DON'T ACTU-ALLY WANT YOU TO DIE! YOU DON'T HAVE TO--
OH STOP! STOP! STOP! STOP!


NOW...
...LET'S DO THIS.

U PU PUU... UPU PU PUU...!!
AAAH, IT'S SO SUB-LIME...! SO THIS IS HOW IT FEELS...!
I WISH ALL THE WORLD COULD DROWN IN THIS...
...NO! TO EVEN TASTE THE MEREST DROP...
...OF THIS SUBLIME AND GLORIOUS DESPAIR!!!
A SPECIAL PUNISHMENT WORTHY OF THE FINALE!
LET'S GO OUT WITH A BANG!! IT'S PUNISH-MENT
TIIIIIMMMEEE!!!

HOPE PUSHES US FORWARDS !!!

thudd

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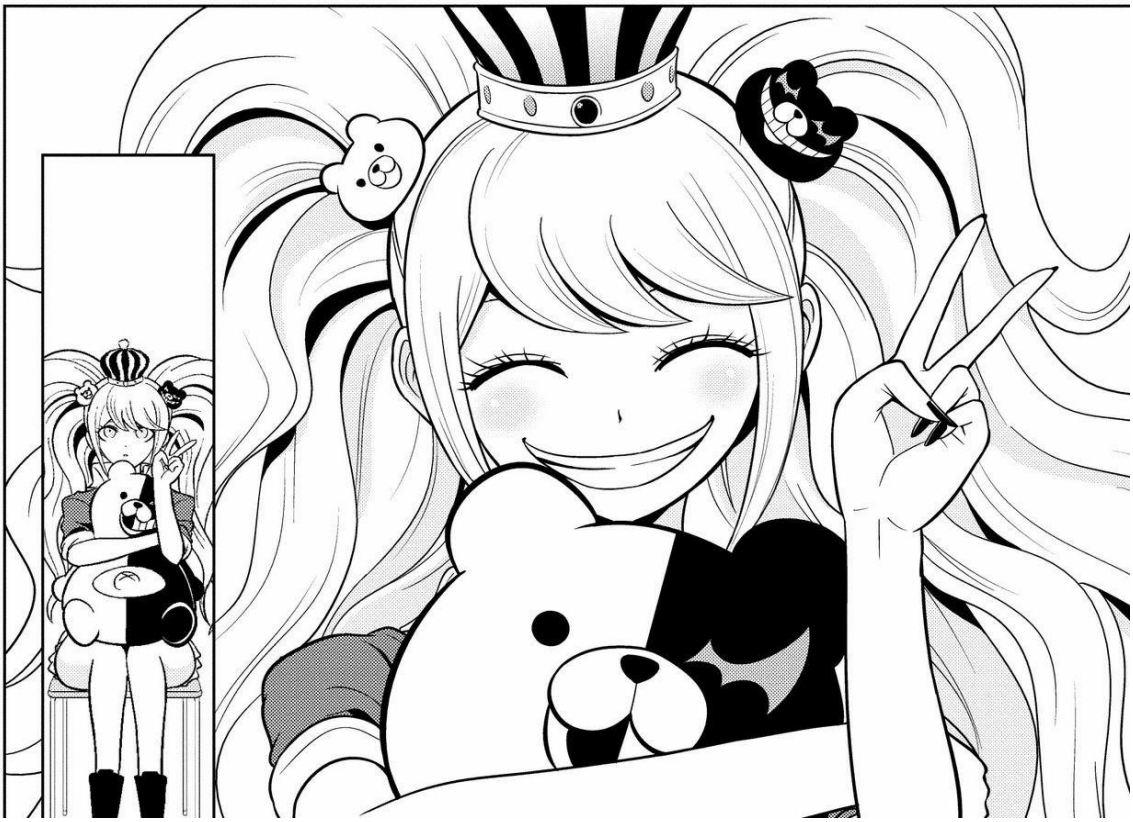

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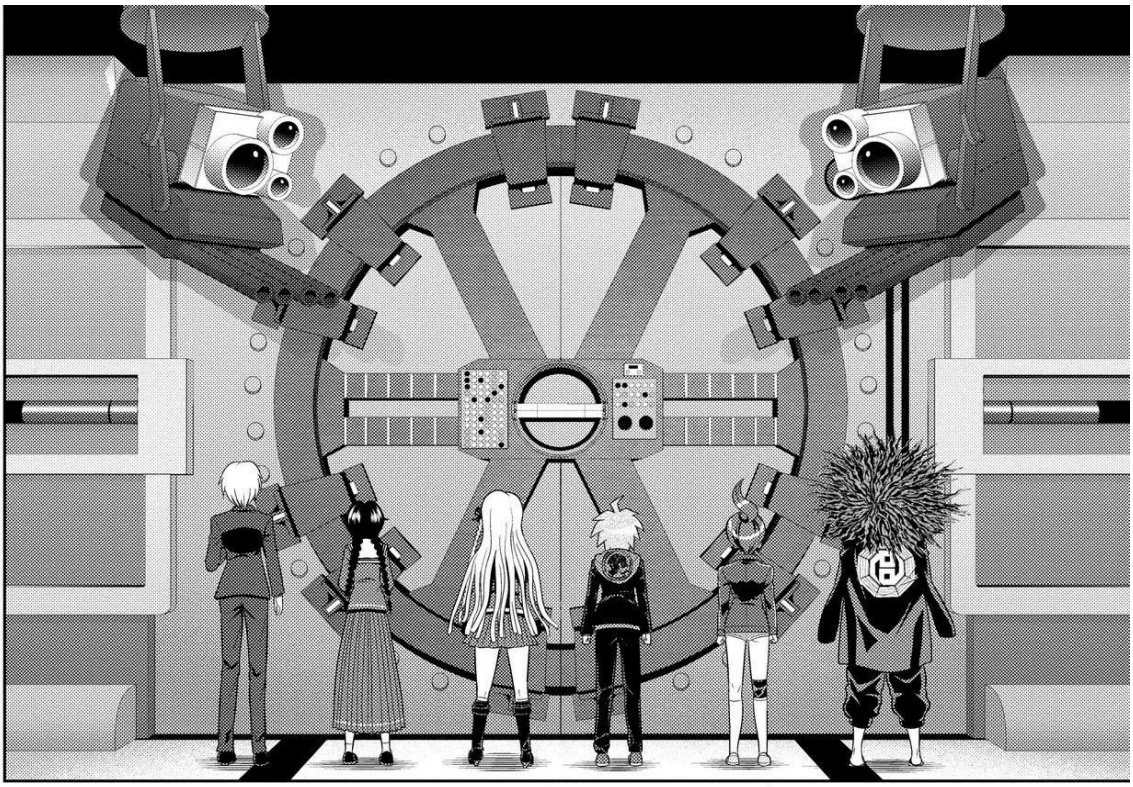
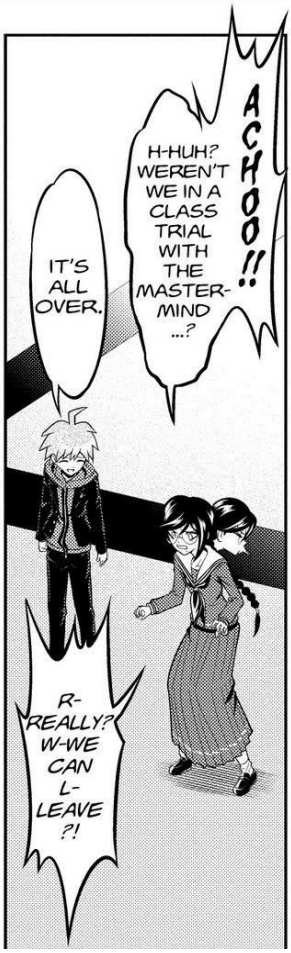
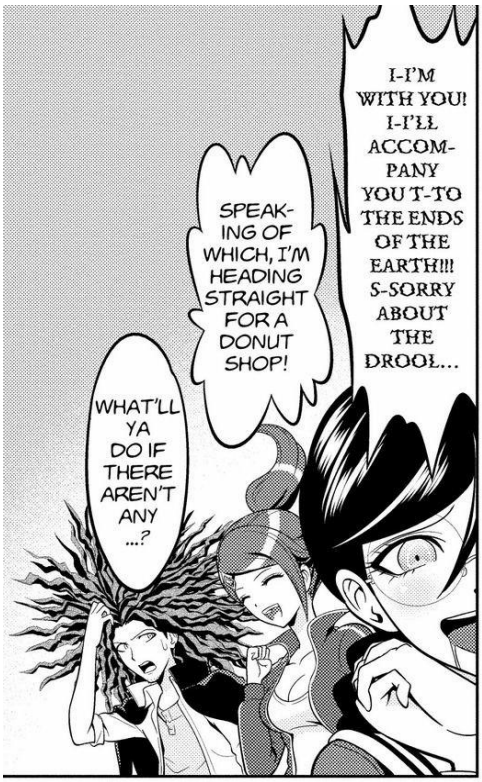
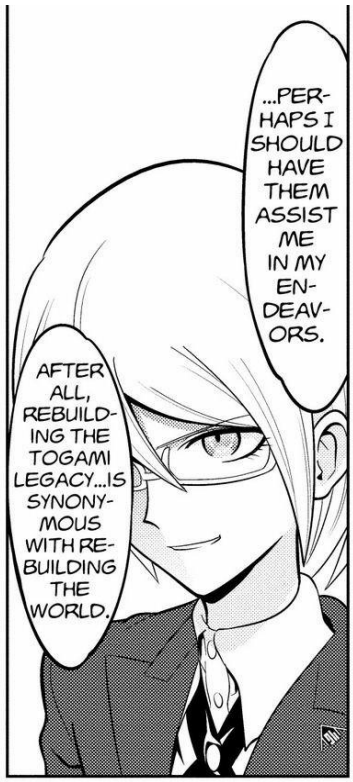


BUT I'M, UM, KINDA NERVOUS ABOUT WHAT AWAITS US...
IT'S A BIG WORLD... THERE'S BOUND TO BE PLENTY OF HOPE OUT THERE, YOU KNOW?
TRUE HOPE STEMS FROM...THE VERY ACT OF SEARCHING FOR HOPE-- OF TRYING TO FIND IT.

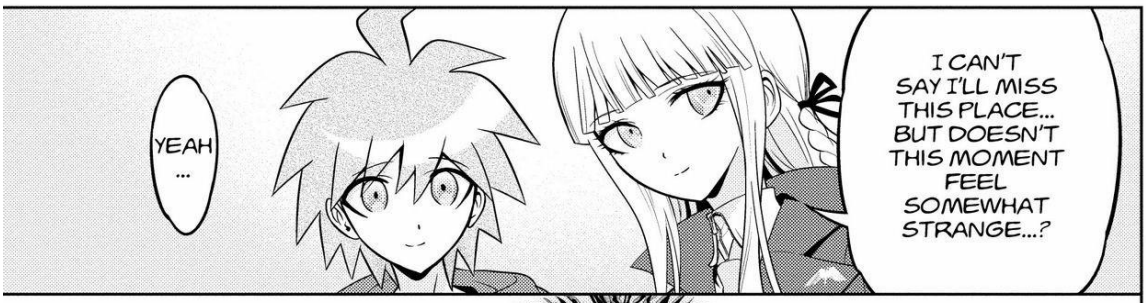

ACHOO!!
H-HUH? WEREN'T WE IN A CLASS TRIAL WITH THE MASTER-MIND ...?
IT'S ALL OVER.
R-REALLY? W-WE CAN L-LEAVE ?!

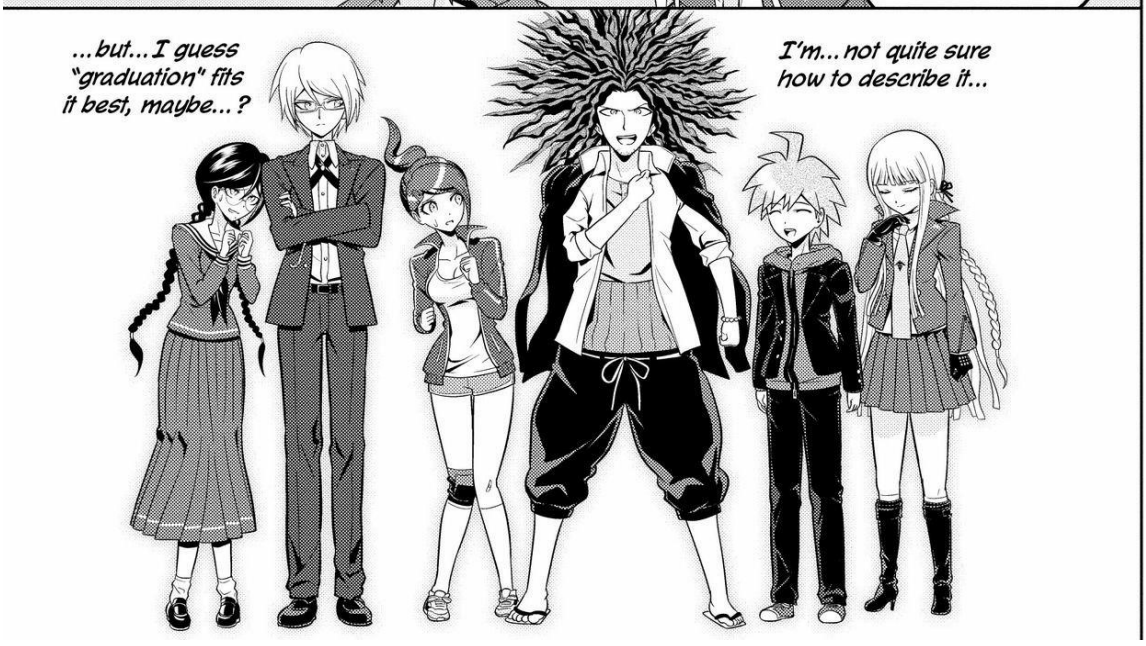
YOU KNOW... WE CAN'T STAND HERE FOR-EVER.
ONCE I PUSH THIS BUTTON, THE DOOR TO THE OUTSIDE WILL OPEN...


I-I'M WITH YOU! I-I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU T-TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!!! S-SORRY ABOUT THE DROOL...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'M HEADING STRAIGHT FOR A DONUT SHOP!
WHAT'LL YA DO IF THERE AREN'T ANY ...?

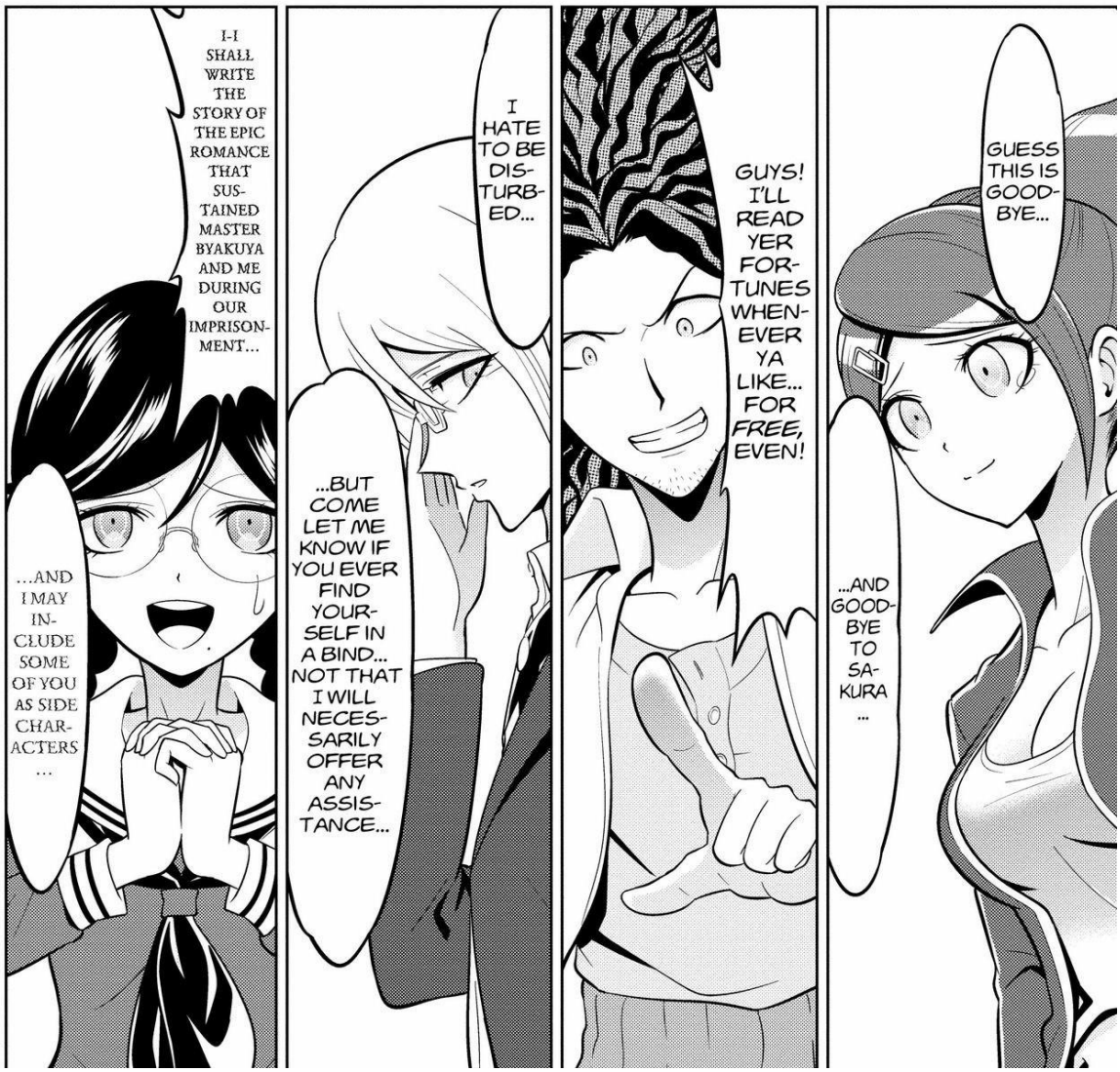

...PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE THEM ASSIST ME IN MY ENDEAVORS.
AFTER ALL, REBUILDING THE TOGAMI LEGACY...IS SYNONYMOUS WITH REBUILDING THE WORLD.

HEH! THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.
AND LEST YOU FORGET, ENOSHIMA CLAIMED THAT OUT THERE ARE "FOOLS WHO STUBBORNLY CLING TO HOPE"...

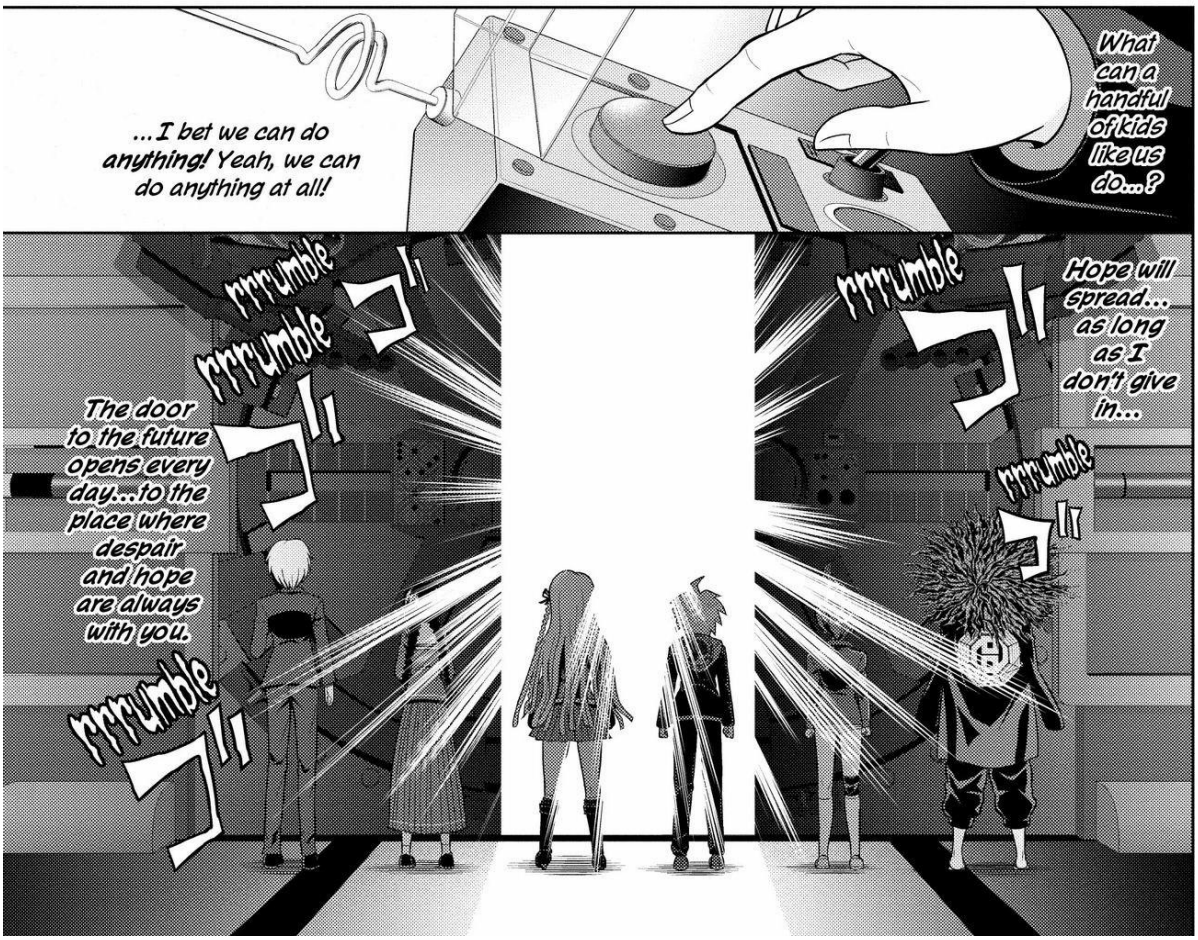

YEAH ...
I CAN'T SAY I'LL MISS THIS PLACE... BUT DOESN'T THIS MOMENT FEEL SOMEWHAT STRANGE...?


...but...I guess "graduation" fits it best, maybe...?
I'm...not quite sure how to describe it...

WELL, HERE WE GO...

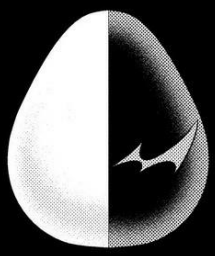

GUESS THIS IS GOOD-BYE...
...AND GOOD-BYE TO SA-KURA ...
GUYS! I'LL READ YER FOR-TUNES WHEN-EVER YA LIKE... FOR FREE, EVEN!
I HATE TO BE DIS-TURB-ED...
...BUT COME LET ME KNOW IF YOU EVER FIND YOUR-SELF IN A BIND... NOT THAT I WILL NECES-SARILY OFFER ANY ASSIS-TANCE...
I-I SHALL WRITE THE STORY OF THE EPIC ROMANCE THAT SUS-TAINED MASTER BYAKUYA AND ME DURING OUR IMPRISON-MENT...
...AND I MAY IN-CLUDE SOME OF YOU AS SIDE CHAR-ACTERS ...

GO AHEAD, NAEGI...
...I'M ACTUALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO FACING IT...WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU BY MY SIDE.
...EVEN IF THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS IN RUINS, EVEN IF IT IS FILLED WITH DESPAIR...


What can a handful of kids like us do...?
...I bet we can do anything! Yeah, we can do anything at all!
Hope will spread... as long as I don't give in...
The door to the future opens every day...to the place where despair and hope are always with you.
rrrumble
rrrumble
rrrumble
rrrumble
rrrumble

HEH HEH HEH ...!
FASCI-NATIN'... PAWS-ITIVELY FASCI-NATIN' ...!
UPU PU PU... REMEMBER ...I AIN'T A STUFFED ANIMAL...
I AM...
...THIS SCHOOL'S...
...HEADMASTER!!!

END



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DANGANRONPA: THE ANIMATION VOLUME 4

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DESPAIR MAIL

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Welcome back to DESPAIR MAIL, the place for Ultimate Danganronpa *Fans! If you'd like to share your thoughts or comments on* Danganronpa *. . . pictures of your* Danganronpa *cosplay . . . or your* Danganronpa *fan art—this is the place for you! Send it to the address or email at the top of the page and remember to use high resolution (300 dpi or better) for your photos or images, so they'll look good in print!*

This is the final volume of this Danganronpa *series, and so this is the last Despair Mail . . . for now, anyway. However, we're working on publishing more translated* Danganronpa *manga in the future (including manga based on the other games in the series, as some of you have requested), and if we do, we'd love to include your fan contributions in those books as well!*

I want to apologize to our Ultimate Digital Art Technician, Christina McKenzie, and our designer (surely also Ultimate—but perhaps she declines to say so in case she gets assigned to Hope's Peak Academy ^_^) for waiting until the last minute to get Despair Mail ready . . . it's just that I wanted to include as many of your contributions in volume 4 as possible.

As you probably know, we have to get each volume of the manga together some months before it appears in your bookstore, so it's possible we may still get pictures or letters from you after the cutoff date for volume 4. If so, please know that we do appreciate them, and, as mentioned above, we hope to include them in another Danganronpa *book sometime!*

David Kusuma sent us this picture of his Danganronpa *collection . . . thus far! I'm pleased to see this manga series is represented in the bottom right . . . but looking at all these books in Japanese, I feel extra motivated to get some more published in English here!*

Emily Raine writes in to say, "I've loved* Danganronpa *for about a year now and now I'm going to be cosplaying Chiaki Nanami for Anime USA [an anime con in Washington, DC, if you didn't know—ed.]. When I saw volume 1 at Barnes and Noble, I got really excited because* Danganronpa *is part of my life now. I'm playing both 1 and 2 as well as watching both the Despair and Future Arcs (which I'm having my dad watch with me) . . . I just want to show my love for* Danganronpa*!" It's great that you're watching with your dad. Actually, someone at Dark Horse had a check-up recently and, mentioning that we were publishing the manga, found out that his doctor was into* Danganronpa*!

Charlotte Zahn sent in this great rendition of everyone's favorite psycho, Toko Fukawa (or wait, I guess Fukawa's the "normal" personality . . . ?). ^_^

Sarah Haddad, whose sketches were also featured in volume 3's Despair Mail, sent this in too, saying, "Hey there, I drew another picture from Danganronpa ***and thought I would send it to you to see if it can make it into anything! :) Thank you!" Just in time, Sarah!***

Well, as we all know, Junko Enoshima returns in the final volume . . . so we have to thank Megan Alesha Shorrock for being so kind as to submit this fan art of her. Thank you, Megan!

Almedin A. sent in this letter to Despair Mail: "I just wanted to say I LOVE *Danganronpa*. My first encounter with it was when I watched YouTuber CinnamonToastKen play *Danganronpa: Trigger Happy Havoc*. Me being me, I saw the thumbnail and did not want to watch because it looked dumb (I judge stuff by their covers). HOW WRONG I WAS. The video accidentally played because of YouTube autoplay. I was too lazy to change the video. After that I was ADDICTED.

I was sad when the game was over but the second game (*Danganronpa 2: Goodbye Despair*) was out, apparently. CinnamonToastKen said he was gonna play it and I was ECSTATIC (my favorite character was [and is] Chiaki). Sadly this means I know when someone dies, why someone dies, and, well . . . who dies.

I have noticed some differences between the manga and the game. Especially how they found out Chihiro Fujisaki is a dude. When I bought the manga I told my friend I would let them read it (I had told them about *Danganronpa* before, but *Danganronpa* isn't really the easiest thing to just explain through Facebook Messenger). They said they promised themselves to not get addicted . . . but they failed.

I'm gonna buy every volume and if there's gonna be a manga for *Danganronpa 2* (or even 3) you can bet my wallet I'm gonna buy that.

With a BEARful of love, Almedin A."

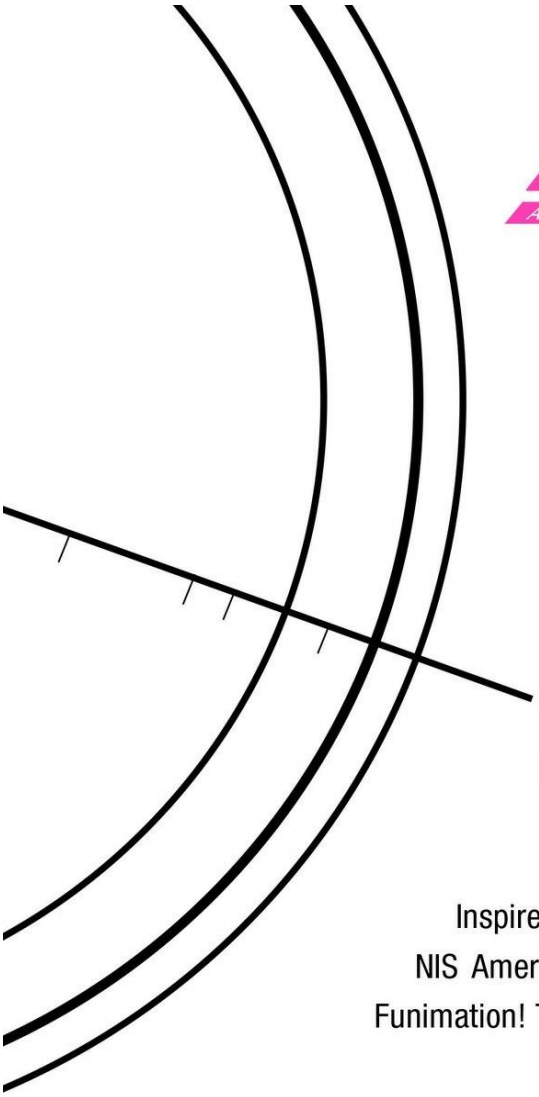
Thanks for writing in, Almedin! In my day I worked on the same principle to discover new things, except back then, instead of YouTube autoplay, I was too lazy to change the TV channel on the remote control. But, as you know, laziness can sometimes pay off big!

Hindessa sent in these four drawings and said: "I'm so happy that you've translated the manga! Thank you and bless your amazing souls. I'm a huge **Danganronpa** ***fan I love the games, anime, and now the manga 'cause now I can finally read it!"***

And finally, what could be more appropriate to end on than this shot of Naegi and Kirigiri looking for clues, with Makoto Naegi portrayed by Kanon-No-Hana, and Kyoko Kirigiri portrayed by Emishima? Thank you both for this great depiction!

Once again, thanks so much to everyone for your submissions, and your support of the Danganronpa ***manga. As said above, we hope to do more*** Danganronpa ***books in the future, and if so, we'll hope to see you there! If you ever feel like you're trapped inside someone's evil and corrupt game that's trying to set you all against each other, remember how to fight back: make friends instead . . . and don't give up on the truth.***

—CGH



DANGANRONPA

A SCHOOL OF HOPE . . . WITH STUDENTS OF DESPAIR!

THE ANIMATION

WHO WILL GRADUATE . . . ALIVE?

With only six students remaining alive out of the original fifteen, the final trial will also reveal the mastermind behind their imprisonment in Hope's Peak Academy . . . and the true purpose behind the deadly game they've been forced to play! The survivors might count themselves lucky to have been right . . . but are they sure they've counted *themselves* right . . . ?

Inspired by the *Danganronpa* video game series from NIS America . . . and based on the anime series from Funimation! The first *Danganronpa* manga to be released in English has twists and turns of its own!

DARK HORSE MANGA